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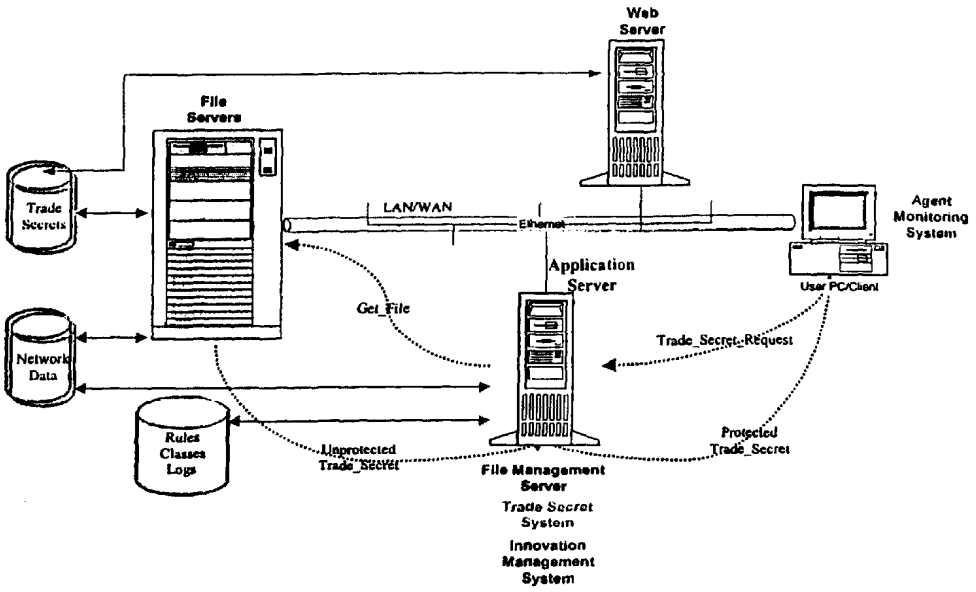

(57) Abstract: A system for streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets. The system identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis, and provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives (trade secrets), patent filings, computed valuations (rules classes logs), user information and a variety of detailed reports. An employee has instant access to her latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them.

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Title: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING AND MANAGING AN ENTERPRISE IP ENVIRONMENT

This application is a continuation-in-part of Ser.No. 09/687,510 filed October 12, 2000 which claimed priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/159,129 filed October 12, 1999; and a continuation-in-part of Ser.No. [US Express Mail EL609827121US], filed November 3, 2000 which claimed priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/163,877 filed November 5, 1999; this application also claims priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/165,140 filed November 12, 1999.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to knowledge management systems; more particularly it relates to systems for automating and managing an enterprise IP environment, with global communications network capabilities.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The significance of intellectual property (IP) is growing daily. More and more, corporations realize the importance of preserving and protecting these vital assets, and a select few even appreciate how to capitalize on them. However, the real underlying issue that has not been addressed, up until now, is that in today's digital enterprise there is a tremendous need for a reliable, real-time system for creating, preserving and building value from corporate IP assets. This model must be in synch with today's digital world and enterprise environment and operate on a continuous, real time basis. It must work transparently with the way in which employees work and innovate. It must be a useful productivity tool for IP attorneys and corporate counselors. And it must safeguard and protect the most valuable assets a company owns, its intellectual capital.

Many companies are only recently recognizing the rise in significance of IP as a core asset. However, even with heightened awareness, most continue to operate in antiquated ways, relying on "defensive mechanisms," such as legalistic paperwork and

cumbersome procedures. These techniques are expensive, time-intensive, and inadequately suited for today's digital environment, since they fail to operate in real time.

Today, very few companies use the potential of information technology to streamline processes, promote new innovation, and document and protect their assets. Often, their employees at just about every level are undereducated and unaware of the risks of inadvertent disclosure or competitive loss—setting the stage for future disputes and often leading to litigation, or even worse, the permanent loss of valuable trade secrets.

Most significantly, virtually all corporations underestimate the strategic value of their IP, and therefore, fail to capitalize on the full potential of it. And even while recognizing the growing significance of IP assets, there are essentially no companies that do an effective job at providing the knowledge-connectivity™ and incentive for new innovations.

In today's job market, employees are more mobile than ever before. Mergers, acquisitions, and downsizing are just a few of the reasons. The result is a constantly changing workforce, and the constant creation, disclosure, and turnover of corporate intellectual property. And whereas it is perfectly legal for a highly skilled employee to leave and go to work with a competitor, taking with him or her his own skills and experience, it is not lawful to leave with proprietary company information.

These trends of higher worker mobility and the increasing value of digital assets have converged to create a tremendous opportunity for a new solution. Companies certainly want to avoid additional litigation nightmares, when even a single trade secret dispute or patent infringement suit can cost well over $1 million in legal fees. Douglas Brotz, principle scientist at Adobe Systems, commenting on a patent infringement suit described how it had cost the company more than $4.5 million in legal fees and expenses alone, not to mention over 3,500 hours of his time—the equivalent of two, full years of working time. Most remarkably, this was a case that Adobe *had won,* initially and on appeal. Clearly, an effective means for mitigating the risk of a costly lawsuit would be of great benefit to many leading technology companies.

For the most part, individual employees don't want or intend to break trade secret laws, steal proprietary assets or misappropriate secret files. They just want to pursue the opportunities afforded to them in the free marketplace. In many cases, the

core issue, the one that becomes highly volatile, is that it is nearly impossible to discern between company IP assets and individual skills and knowledge. Coupled with the fact that companies do a very poor job of identifying their IP assets in the first place--62% of companies have no procedures for reporting information loss. This tension becomes the catalyst for another wasteful lawsuit, pitting the company against ex-employee. The company, quite self-righteously, stakes a claim to a broad range of trade secrets; and the employee, defends by pleading that the information is in the public domain, or part of his general skills and knowledge. Just recently, in another high profile suit that illustrates this growing problem, Motorola, Inc. sued Intel for hiring away a number of its key employees. An Intel spokesperson said the action was taken solely to protect Motorola's intellectual property, which it characterized as its "lifeblood."

As a further example of the seriousness of this issue, in 1998 the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) reported that IP losses for U.S. companies might exceed $250 billion annually. Furthermore, five times more companies feel the issue of intellectual property loss is increasing. With the nation's competitiveness riding on our ability to maintain technological superiority, losing trade secrets can be devastating. What makes matters worse is that most companies don't know, nor have they taken action to find out what their specific trade secrets are, and whether or not they are legally protected. This only adds to the potential of a future lawsuit, since only a lengthy hearing of the facts can ultimately determine the "right and wrong."

Slow, expensive and outmoded legal precautions, and time-consuming audits are not the answer in this day and age of rapid product development. To keep their competitive edge, and to promote innovation and capitalize on knowledge assets, there is a need for a new solution—an innovative way of managing IP property.

In the past, intellectual property was not as pressing an issue as it has now become. The connection between an idea and the creation of wealth was less direct, and the road from the one to the other was traveled at a more leisurely pace. By contrast, in today's information-intensive economy, that connection is immediate and intense. Knowledge is now the driving force behind innovation and the creation of new wealth.

Within many of today's companies, innovation fuels high market caps, not tangible assets as in the past. The trends of higher worker mobility and widespread

litigation, coupled with the increasing value of digital assets have converged to create a tremendous opportunity for a new solution.

Need for an Innovation Management System

The preponderance of adjectives such as "monitoring," "protection," "litigation," and "security" immediately conjures up images of "Big Brother." And while proper oversight cannot and should not be ignored, this functionality in and of itself fails to address an even more important issue: How effectively do companies promote innovation? After all, if you accept the fact that IP is becoming more and more critical, then shouldn't companies treat it like their corporate lives depend upon it?

Most companies do very little to tap into the vast resources of knowledge that exist inside their own organizations. One Fortune 100 Company offers a $100 dinner-for-two award for new ideas submitted by email to the corporate counselor. That's not much of an incentive, when you consider the other options available to today's employees, especially those with an entrepreneurial drive, and the ready supply of venture capital that exists.

Many of these companies rely on a perceived underlying expectation that their employees will automatically produce new innovations, as if obligated merely by the fact that they receive a paycheck and benefits. And most companies employ legal covenants that dictate the assignment of new ideas to the company, if developed on company time, with company resources, or which relate to the company's business. That mind set may have worked a generation ago, but it doesn't meet today's needs, or work for today's dynamic job market. After all, who gets to decide where one idea starts and ends? Who owns an idea that may not have been reduced to practice by the employee while he worked for the company? Ownership issues can destroy the potential of a new concept before it gets off the blocks.

It just does not appear that legal pressure is the best way to promote the creation of new ideas. Nor does it appear that employees, particularly the most savvy ones, will naively turn over their best and brightest ideas without some reasonable incentive or recognition, especially as they become more aware of the potential value. Considering that the ideas that gave birth to over 70% of the country's 100 fastest growing companies came from previous employment, it is easy to appreciate the significance of this issue. Today, most companies fail to recognize this, and consequently, they wonder why some of their best talent leaves to pursue other

opportunities—including business ideas that they originated while working for their previous employer.

A recent survey published in the Harvard Business Review reported that "71% of entrepreneurs responsible for starting the country's 100 fastest growing companies developed their ideas through their former employment—either by recognizing an opportunity that the former employer didn't appreciate or even know about, or by improving upon some aspect of the company's products or services."

Overall, the existing corporate infrastructure and antiquated operating methods are poorly designed to deal with today's climate. In this fiercely competitive world just providing a job doesn't do nearly enough to promote innovation—the ultimate goal for progressive companies. What is needed is an Innovation Management System.

Existing Technology in the Knowledge Management Field

The Knowledge Management industry is quickly consuming the myriad fragmented and disparate niche industries that have evolved over the past two decades, including document management, search and retrieval, repositories, object technology, workflow, and most recently the intranet. According to Delphi Consulting Group, buying trends for IT will revolve around this central theme for the next decade.

The most significant aspect of this industry is the growing awareness of the increasing amount of useless data--in other words, no information--in a typical company. Strategically, companies are realizing that knowledge is the key driving force in the next decade, and systems which help manage documents, search, and aid collaboration are desperately needed. In a recent survey, nearly half (43%) of the survey population regarded knowledge management as an opportunity to add value to information inside and outside the organization. But nearly as many respondents (37%) viewed knowledge management in a very different light - as a "major new strategic initiative for staying competitive." Overall, 80% view knowledge management as providing an important contribution to business practice, and 46% of that group views knowledge management as strategic. This same group was asked the primary repositories of corporate knowledge and the biggest obstacles to creating knowledge-based organizations; the results are shown in the charts in Figure 1.

The data however clearly show that while employees are the primary sources of information in the company, all of the current solutions have focused on the remaining items: paper documents, electronic documents, and databases.

The data also reveals that the biggest obstacle is culture. The current business climate simply does not address the needs and wants of the typical knowledge "gold-collar" worker. These employees typically don't trust the "system." Highly skilled workers know they can leave the corporate environment and get better returns, higher salaries, stock options, and greater opportunities than by simply handing over important innovations. Employees are even heard to say "why should I give ABC company my ideas, I'm going to start my own company."

Accounting and valuation begin with documentation. A company with an expensive piece of capital equipment is sure to be aware of it. But most companies have valuable intellectual capital that they do not fully recognize. Many technology companies, for example, with dozens, hundreds or thousands of patents do not have a coherent catalogue of their patents, let alone an analysis of how their patents might be useful and how they might be exploited for economic and competitive gain.

These trends don't just apply to a limited number of high technology companies. Even companies not directly involved in high tech must realize that a substantial portion of their overall assets relate to intellectual property or capital. For instance, a small manufacturer may possess unique mechanical know-how, process knowledge, or techniques that create competitive space. Service companies use proprietary calculations and customer lists to their advantage. The implications of managing IP reach just about every industry classification and category.

The following needs can be identified among companies that produce IP. They need to organize intellectual property so that it can be quickly retrieved, filtered, and sorted by multiple criteria; they need to create an environment conducive to innovation by inspiring IP creation, sharing IP across the corporation, and promoting the intellectual output of individuals within the firm; they need to increase the value of corporate IP assets; they need to slow employee turnover and keep key employees from moving outside the company to start new enterprises; they need to communicate to employees, joint venture partners, and others that it is serious about protecting it's IP, and want to be sure that these same people have acknowledged this; and they need efficient and centralized access to disparate IP-related information, such as legal contracts, signed documents, IP, and usage patterns for making decisions about departing personnel, potential patent infringement, or partnership negotiations.

A brief look at the trade secret laws in the context of a buyer of IP assets provides further illustration of the need for an Innvation Management System.

Today, there is no effective way for companies to accomplish this level of analysis, cost-effectively and efficiently.

Previous attempts to meet customer needs

Patent/IP Software

This category focuses on IP products. In general, the products are complex, patent-centric databases that best serve companies with large and extensive patent and trademark portfolios, and who are very serious about the strategic management of their patents. Many of the systems also include other software modules such as PTO filing, law case management, docket generation, and billing. They either target corporations, law firms, or patent practitioners. This niche has been fairly small, so most companies range in size from 60 to about 250 employees and have deployed in the neighborhood of 100's of customers. Prices range from $5,000 to $30,000 not including customization or installation. Examples in this category include Aurigin's IP Asset Management System, Computer Package's Patent and Trademark Management System, Master Data Center's PC Master, Maxim Technology's InProma, and OP Solution's PATTSY.

ERP/Knowledge Management Software

Almost every software company in existence today can claim some share of the Knowledge Management marketplace. This category of competitors is so numerous it's difficult to find any clear distinguishing differences between them. Most of the products are "enhanced" tools such as database searching, document management, groupware, and personal web page publishing. A recent KM publication listed 36 different software groups as part of the KM marketplace, including Application Development Products, Business & Competitive Intelligence, CAD, CD-related technologies, Collaborative & Work Management, Compound Document Management Software, Data Mining, Data Warehousing, Database Management Systems, Document Conferencing, Document Design/Publishing, Document Management Software, DVD-related technologies, Electronic Commerce, Engineering Document Management Systems, ERP Systems, Forms Processing, Groupware, Image Compression, Image Manipulation, Image Processing, Imaging Application Systems, Input Capture Systems, Intellectual Asset Management, Internet/Intranet Development, Knowledge Management Software/Tools, Micrographics, Multimedia Systems Software, Networking Systems Software, OCR/ICR/OMR Bar coding, On-Demand Print Systems, Portable Document Viewing, Records Retention/Archiving,

Storage Management Systems, Text Retrieval & Management Software, and Workflow.

Clearly, this list contains everything imaginable related to documents and is a highly fragmented conglomeration of companies.

Knowledge Management Consulting

Since this is a complex concept to understand, it is a sure bet that every consulting firm that can claim any relevant expertise is involved. Arthur Andersen seems to be leading the pack in this area by performing IP audits, analyzing workflow processes, and then installing document management and groupware solutions. Most of the consulting firms are focusing on a holistic, and we believe overly broad, approach by examining all aspects of the organization's knowledge base: systems, processes, departments, and technologies. Their angle is that by correctly leveraging knowledge, a company can improve productivity, customer service, quality, speed to market, and other performance improvements. By helping organizations improve how they create, capture, share and apply the knowledge that exists within the company, they can more fully capitalize on it. Web-Based solutions

At present this category only contains one competitor, yet2.com. It appears to be focused on using the Internet as a business-to-business tool targeted at the license of IP for large corporations. Yet2.com has moved quickly to create associations with several premier companies, although the details of these relationships are unknown at this time.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

A three-tiered, scalable, web-based architecture ("the system") is disclosed to dynamically and cost-effectively promote innovation, foster learning, encourage preservation, and allow the management and maximization of corporate IP assets; a solution for automating and managing the modern-day enterprise IP environment. This system works efficiently within the legal parameters of any company environment, regardless of industry, and works in cooperation with In-house Counsel. With real-time access to key information, IP Counsel can focus on higher level, strategic issues, and not mundane documentation tasks.

A reliable, real-time system for creating, preserving and building value from corporate IP assets is disclosed. The system is in synch with today's digital world and enterprise environment and operates on a continuous, real time basis. It works

transparently with the way in which employees work and innovate, it is a useful productivity tool for IP attorneys and corporate counselors, and it safeguards and protects the most valuable assets a company owns, its intellectual capital. It uses the potential of information technology to streamline processes, promote new innovation, and document and protect a company's assets. It does a very effective job of providing the Knowledge-connectivity™ and incentive for new innovations.

The system meets all of the needs identified above. Using the system, companies can organize intellectual property so that it can be quickly retrieved, filtered, and sorted by multiple criteria; create an environment conducive to innovation by inspiring IP creation, sharing IP across the corporation, and promoting the intellectual output of individuals within the firm; increase the value of corporate IP assets; slow employee turnover and motivate key employees from moving outside the company to start new enterprises; communicate to employees, joint venture partners, and others that they are serious about protecting their IP, with assurance that these same people have acknowledged this serious view; and achieve efficient and centralized access to disparate IP-related information, such as legal contracts, signed documents, IP, and usage patterns for making decisions about departing personnel, potential patent infringement, or partnership negotiations. With the system companies can accomplish a cost effective and efficient level of analysis as to their trade secrets or any other IP assets.

The System also delivers three key benefits: Value Creation, Awareness, and Accountability.

Value Creation

One of the goals of the system is to inspire and promote new innovation within corporations. We don't believe that the innovation process is optimized for either companies or employees. Our systems help to foster an environment where creativity is recognized and rewarded in direct alignment with the goals of the company. A company that recognizes the contributions of its employees will certainly create a more stable employment environment—and attract talented people—sharpen its competitive edge, and ultimately become more successful. The system employs system-level tools that inspire the creation and sharing of new ideas and knowledge, which ultimately contributes to the increased valuation of any company.

Awareness

By making employees more aware and sensitive to the treatment of proprietary information, companies will be better protected from the risk of detrimental loss. Most employers do not realize that the two greatest risks to IP are employees stealing secrets or divulging secrets at a future job. Employees need to recognize the significance of a company's IP assets and understand their responsibility for preserving them. Even a single unprotected disclosure can mean the permanent loss of a valuable trade secret. The system increases the threshold of awareness in a company's working environment, and at the same time demonstrates the company's proactive concern for safeguarding its valuable assets.

Accountability

Among all the assets that a business owns, its IP may be the most important and valuable. To substantiate this, the Brookings Institution in Washington surveyed U.S. manufacturers in 1982 and determined that physical assets such as factories, property, and equipment made up 62% of the companies' total market value, with the rest of the value represented by proprietary knowledge. Ten years later, the researchers determined that physical assets accounted for only 38%, with the remainder consisting of the firms' intangible knowledge assets.

Xerox actually invented the Windows concept of computer software perhaps two decades ago, long before Apple and Microsoft locked in their currently well-known legal dispute. But for all of its size and resources, Xerox failed to seek a patent and never gained a foothold in the market Apple eventually dominated.

A sustainable competitive advantage depends on how effectively a company can manage, protect and exploit IP—corporate survival depends on it. The last thing that a company needs is for lax oversight to put these assets at risk. Corporate leaders have a baseline responsibility to preserve corporate assets and work to capitalize on them. The System provides the information that a company needs to ensure that it is responsibly doing its very best to preserve assets, answering such questions as, "What specific trade secrets exist in the business today? Are they being properly and consistently maintained? Who has direct access to them?"

User/System Benefits

Discussed below are departments and individuals within the typical corporate environment who will benefit from using the System. For each example, the user's needs and the ultimate system benefits are shown.

Marketing needs to be able to determine competitive strengths and weaknesses, new areas of market growth. The System automatically summarizes company innovations. The System performs detailed searches on the Internet to find competing or encroaching ideas; reports are available which list potential competitive strengths or weaknesses. These searches are performed automatically and routinely using intelligent agents, giving market analysts a jump-start on which areas to investigate.

Executive Management needs to get an accurate picture of the level of innovation in the company. Are employees building corporate value? Are we recognizing our key contributors? Are we properly protecting and preserving our assets? The System produces graphic presentations and detailed reporting of the number of innovations per month, year, or quarter give senior managers a firm understanding of their level of innovation. Further stratification of the data by department or job function can help develop future strategic direction. Summary reports display access to protected information by class, type, date, user, etc. Management can quickly assess the level of protection, and if needed, can globally change security levels to reflect changing environments.

Corporate IP has to have a "handle" on the specific IP being created; it owns responsibility for oversight. What is being created, what is its value, who is creating it, what means of protection should be employed? The system creates an instant snapshot of the current state of all IP in the company. Its like getting an instantaneous IP audit at the touch of a button.

Technical Employee wants recognition for new ideas and innovations. Innovation Management System™ allows the user to "certify" the idea with immediate supervisor, corporate IP, and posting for company-wide viewing on the corporate intranet. Corporate IP has to have a "handle" on the specific IP being created—owns responsibility for oversight. What is being created, what is its value, who is creating it, what means of protection should be employed? The system creates an instant snapshot of the current state of all IP in the company. Its like getting an instantaneous IP audit at the touch of a button.

Human Resources needs to inform departing employees that they have an on-going obligation to keep corporate trade secrets and intellectual property confidential. By allowing instant access to the usage pattern for any individual who has viewed corporate secrets, HR can quickly generate and show departing employees a listing of all confidential materials accessed and printed. Furthermore, HR can quickly print

out scanned images of the departing employee's signed confidentiality agreements, non-disclosure statements, and policy acknowledgments.

Human Resources also needs to provide more meaningful data to the employee review process. In addition to all of the usual employee review data, HR can query the System and determine all of the ideas that an individual has submitted over the past year. How can the productivity of a "business development manager" be measured without it?

Finance wants to know, "What is the value of the company's goodwill?" It needs to try to determine the costs of a new product launch, the total corporate value of IP or trade secrets. Because idea submitters enter hours spent, along with other resources that contributed to the innovation, assets can be assigned tangible values and tracked on the company's balance sheet.

The System streamlines the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets. The System identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis. It provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports. A client has instant access to their latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them. They know precisely the status of their property, and can quickly view summary reports and valuation data. This information is extremely beneficial in linking IP to the company's strategic objectives. See Figure 2.

The System is highly configurable and creates a wide range of user-selectable classifications of assets, allowing the system to be customized in alignment with individual business needs. For example, a software development company can selectively designate individual network folders as "CLASS 1" Trade Secrets. A number of parameters can be associated with this CLASS 1 status or mode. In this scenario, CLASS 1 provides the ultimate level of protection. Every access to these trade secrets will be monitored and logged by the System. If necessary, and depending on the protective features enabled, every user action such as viewing, printing, copying, and modifying can be transparently logged and sent to the main Server. See Figure 5.

You instantly know who has accessed your key IP files, and who has downloaded them, viewed or copied them. This level of data acquisition can be invaluable in the case of employee ownership disputes, determining level of disclosure,

or commercial licensing negotiations. And even more importantly, all of this data is essential to proving that your company took the necessary preventative precautions to protect the secrecy of your trade secrets—invaluable in the face of future litigation.

Innovation Management System

As stated earlier, the existing corporate infrastructure and antiquated operating methods are poorly designed to deal with today's climate. The Innovation Management System™ is needed.

An Innovation Management System (IMS) is disclosed. This preferably web-based GUI encourages innovation, providing valuable benefits to both employees and employers. It allows employees to enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification. In many instances, one of the greatest reservations employees have against providing ideas to upper management or other departments is the lack of control, authorship, and credit they associate with typical corporate environments. At one time or another, we have all been victims of intellectual theft—perhaps a design sketch given to your boss concerning a product improvement that appears months later in a corporate document without your name on it. In addition to certification and registration, the system can provide automatic e-mail notifications to an immediate supervisor and the corporate IP department (all configurable), as well as entry and logging into the company-wide recognition database. Others in your company, with appropriate privilege levels, can search (by key words, project descriptions, PTO classifications, author, date, etc.) and instantly access archived innovations, increasing the level of inter-company collaboration. The company can create more effective incentives and "innovation awards" tightly coupled to strategic goals.

Users of the IMS can link to more details on each submission, email comments and suggestions directly to the author (for improved collaboration and knowledge management), or even submit their own improvements as a new or supplemental innovation. See Figure 13.

The IMS database becomes an efficient tool for HR departments, and can be used for evaluating employee performance, measuring overall corporate innovation levels, and identifying qualified and motivated employees to join a special R&D team.

The Corporate Legal Department will benefit because the IMS provides extensive documentation in a wide-range of beneficial areas. For instance, IP Counsel can monitor for new patentable ideas in real time, since they are directly linked into

the system. This efficiency can reduce the time necessary to prepare and prosecute new patents. It also frees up Patent Attorneys to higher-level activities, instead of mundane data collection work. The IMS will enable attorneys to provide improved oversight for new trade secrets before they are lost through inadvertent disclosure. The system archives the documentation trail from the outset, invaluable for assignment issues and establishing firm priority dates.

IMS Web Site

The IMS also provides an interface to the external Internet (optional and configurable). Ideas and submissions can be published and linked to an external (*i.e.* MindMatters.com) web site. The site serves as an innovation access link to companies all over the world. It is possible for interested buyers and sellers to initiate exploratory communications via embedded links, as well as conduct negotiations on available licensable technologies. There is an appropriate legal framework to streamline the exchange of information for the site, assuming that at a certain level, the materials may contain proprietary information.

The site also provides an optimum way for companies to initially view "unsolicited ideas" without the threat of legal reprisal or the burden of lengthy, internal approval processes. Today, many companies are extremely cautious about looking at unsolicited ideas, even potentially valuable ones, because of the potential threat of future litigation. There have been a multitude of cases in recent years involving the purported misappropriation of inventions and ideas resulting from even casual discussions. In response, many companies have established cumbersome, paper-intensive procedures to deal with unsolicited ideas. Some have prohibited them altogether. Needless to say, this constricts the flow of innovation. The site solves this problem as well by building in a protective legal barrier and managing the information exchange. The site acts as a safe and efficient conduit between the parties.

The IMS identifies innovations by key words, categories, PTO Classifications, dates, industries (SIC Codes), and identification/tracking numbers. Interested parties search the web site for innovations applicable to their own businesses or use "search agents" which automatically notify them if something meets their criteria. If they find ideas that merit further investigation, clicking on an e-mail link automatically connects them to the author or representative. By aggregating innovations at the web site, we are actively promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on a broader scale, while simultaneously building a meaningful intellectual property resource. This site

becomes the first link in establishing meaningful relationships for future licensing and royalty agreements. See Figure 3.

A nominal fee is charged for creating the direct link between subscribers and new ideas. When a subscriber chooses to contact the source of the innovation, i.e., by email, a different small fee will be charged. This fee may be negligible in the early stages, in an attempt to drive usage and minimize nuisance requests (such as $0.33). A membership subscription is also contemplated. Other interaction, including submitting ideas, searching for ideas, or configuring "search agents" are free of charge.

Simple Installation

Today's MIS manager has less time than ever to fiddle with finicky programs or configure endless mazes of menus. The system is designed to plug quickly into the network and instantly begin collecting information in its basic configuration. The system simply needs to have an IP (xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx Internet Protocol) address for the network, and a physical connection to the network. IT managers can remotely configure the system via a web interface, and independent systems can be hierarchically managed, along with reporting, back to a central monitor. Communication takes places in encrypted channels. Installation of web components is even simpler as the applications/date are easily installed into an existing web server.

The system is a scalable, modular system that can be implemented incrementally over time. Network solutions are implemented and designed around standard Microsoft DNA components.

Improvements over Existing Knowledge Management Technology

An important benchmark industry to compare disclosed products and services with is the field of Knowledge Management. As stated above, there is growing awareness of the increasing amount of useless data--in other words, no information--in a typical company.

Increasing the value of corporate information is important; however, rather than just designing tools to plod through piles of data, the system is an accounting framework that values (using legal standards as a model), helps protect, and most importantly creates information. But where the Knowledge Management industry has focused on only paper documents, electronic documents, and databases, not employees. The system focuses on all four elements, realizing that employees are the most critical, through the Innovation Management System (IMS). IMS makes itself the employee's

"best friend," as this is the key starting point in the innovation process. If employees trust and use the IMS to help them accomplish their personal goals (while simultaneously satisfying the corporate goals), then the flow of new innovations will be substantial.

The data also reveals that the biggest obstacle is culture. The system addresses the needs and wants of the typical knowledge "gold-collar" worker. The IMS overcomes the cultural disinclination of such workers by allowing innovators to share in the glory and financial success of their ideas. The System will also set the bar for what is required for companies to prove that they did in fact take reasonable measures to protect their assets.

The system is designed to provide an appropriate interface to previous systems that attempt to meet customer needs, such as patent/IP software, and knowledge management software.

The disclosed system is a comprehensive, supervisory system that functions seamlessly on top of existing architectures, and which efficiently monitors and promotes innovation. Innovation is the core focus. The system is unique in that it is designed from the bottom up to be extremely easy to install and integrate with existing systems. Administrators will be able to install it incrementally in a modular fashion, as the needs and demands of the system grow over time. IP and Innovation managers will be able to progressively configure the system for customized applications, producing additional revenue streams from added licenses and services.

The disclosed system is superior to existing knowledge management consulting approaches, with or without Web enablement, at least in the critical area of IP tracking and management. The innovation content that a company provides under the disclosed system offers a much more compelling site to its users, both company users and the internet population. For example the system includes not only a web-trading interface, but also a mechanism for capturing innovation directly from the sources, transferring it through the organization, and protecting it from inadvertent loss. One of the key factors for success will be making it easy for participants in the web experience to upload information on a continuous basis. This keeps the information fresh and frees corporations from the laborious task of entering data repeatedly.

It is a further objective of the Enterprise Innovation Management System (EIMS) to provide a system that promotes and tracks innovations, fosters learning about intellectual assets, encourages preservation of intellectual assets, and monitors

and tracks these assets from inception through analysis/ranking and licensing until the asset is retired or completely depreciated. A global environmental model for the EIMS is presented

The term "Innovation" is used to represent any contribution by an individual or team that seeks to positively enhance some product/process/system within an organization. The term "Idea" is sometimes used interchangeably with Innovation.

The EIMS (or System) consists of four independent applications that function together in an enterprise-wide solution. Together the System streamlines the process of fostering idea creation, educating and rewarding employees who create valuable intellectual property (IP), analyzing and prioritizing IP according to company-defined rating factors, sharing information both externally (if desired) and internally to facilitate licensing and increased productivity, and preserving and protecting proprietary assets. See Figure 33.

A. Innovation Management System™

The EIMS is a web-based GUI that encourages innovation, providing valuable benefits to both employees and employers. It allows employees to enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification to discourage "borrowing" by unethical employees. In addition to certification and registration, the System can provide automatic e-mail notifications to an immediate supervisor and the corporate IP department (all configurable), as well as entry and logging into the company-wide intranet. Others in a user company, with appropriate privilege levels, can search (by key words, project descriptions, PTO classifications, author, date, etc.) and instantly access archived innovations, increasing the level of inter-company collaboration. The company can create more effective incentives and "innovation awards" tightly coupled to strategic goals.

B. Analysis/Ranking Module

This set of tools allows peer groups, IP counsel, or other trusted sources to rank and prioritize innovations that are entered (either through the Innovator or manually) into the system. The power of these tools is highlighted in their ability to quantify both objective and subjective measurement criteria. The rankings are aggregated and weighed relative to the company's strategic objectives, that is, a company can decide that financial factors such as development expense or ROI are more/less important than customer-relationship factors such as new product introductions or quality. Once

ranked, innovations can then be compared against each other and scientific judgments can be made regarding level of investment.

C. Licensing Web Site & Intra-Organization Sharing

The System also provides an interface to both the corporate intranet and/or external Internet (optional and configurable). Tools provided through this application allow the company to quickly publish innovations that the company either does not want or would like to co-license to other companies. In addition, ideas and submissions can be published and linked to the MMT web site. The MMT site serves as an innovation access link to companies all over the world. There are numerous benefits, including the potential to create licensing agreements, streamline product development, find strategic partners, etc. MMT also explores full scale licensing opportunities, i.e., business-to-business eCommerce, via the website. It is possible for interested buyers and sellers to initiate exploratory communications via embedded links, as well as conduct negotiations on available licensable technologies. MMT creates the appropriate legal framework to streamline the exchange of information, assuming that at a certain level, the materials may contain proprietary information.

D. Network Monitoring & Protection System (NMPS)

NMPS identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis. It provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports. A client has instant access to their latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them as the monitoring process can start as soon as the ideas are submitted into the System through the Innovator. They know precisely the status of their property, and can quickly view summary reports and valuation data. This information is extremely beneficial in linking IP to the company's strategic objectives.

You instantly know who has accessed your key IP files, and who has downloaded them, viewed or copied them. This level of data acquisition can be invaluable in the case of employee ownership disputes, determining level of disclosure, or commercial licensing negotiations. And even more importantly, all of this data is essential to proving that your company took the necessary preventative precautions to protect the secrecy of your trade secrets—invaluable in the face of future litigation.

Scope

The EIMS preferably has external interfaces to other third-party software and services. These may include any of the following:

Independent Market Makers: These are services/companies that take finished, licensable intellectual property, i.e., software for license, patents, technologies, and make them available to either general or specific groups of potential customers. They require detailed information about the property for sale and provide leads from interested parties to the EIMS.

Time/Date Authority: This service provides a legal time and date stamp for submitted intellectual property. The certificate is capable of withstanding legal scrutiny and is stored with the idea's descriptive information in the EIMS.

Marketing Leads Databases: Based on the potential applications of the property and the technologies employed, these services provide qualified leads for marketing back into the EIMS. Many of these services are based on industry segments.

Independent Search Agents: This service is composed of two different components: MMT services and independent services. The MMT services provides specific competitive information to MMT users based on search criteria for a particular idea. Independent services scan the Internet or other proprietary databases for relevant information. In both cases, the EIMS sends search criteria, verifies access and then returns results back to the user for review.

Docket System: This is an interface to a docket management system for patents, trademarks, copyrights and other property. Once an idea is determined to be patentable, the docket system handles all of the legal, date, and filing requirements. The EIMS sends the packet of information to the docket system and the docket system communicates with the EIMS via status reports. These status reports are available to be shown to the users.

Third Party Analysis Reviewer: This is an interface to a trusted third-party for the purposes of soliciting feedback on a particular idea. The reviewer has basic information about the idea and provides feedback in the areas designated by the EIMS. The EIMS verifies that the information came from the correct source and then collects and aggregates the data. See Figure 34.

An apparatus is disclosed for registering access to data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc) recorded on storage media as a means to determine history of use whereby a Client/User requests data from a server, the server wraps it with a

protection agent and sends it to a Client/User. The protection agent is attached to the specific data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc.) which determines the degree of use allowed by user (reading, deleting, modifying, printing, etc), and is based on type of data, file type, date/time, location, etc., and also on user level, group, etc., and optionally on pre-determined method for establishing rules used to register access to data recorded on storage media. The server records access to the data, and managers get reports that detail accesses to the data.

An apparatus is disclosed for registering access to data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc) recorded on storage media as a means to determine history of use where registration means the recording of file block system read/writes/updates, recording file name read/writes/updates, or the recording of physical data segment read/writes/updates.

An apparatus is disclosed for wrapping designated trade secret(s) with rules for access into an binary form executable only by the intended recipient(s).

A method is disclosed for determining the relative protection level of an entity's intellectual property (trade secrets, patents, trademarks, copyrights) using Spider graph and associated questions, etc. A method of pair-wise comparison is used for determining relative priority of key factors (accountability, awareness, secrecy, and security), and also using benchmark comparisons against the data entity.

An intelligent IP Accumulator/Agent Monitoring System is disclosed having methodology for searching, finding, identifying, wrapping, safeguarding, classifying/declassifying, shredding and deleting, and encrypting potential IP assets on a continuous, real time basis. This system charts IP assets from origination onward.

Other embodiments disclosed are:

Auto-protect Assets: Methods for automatically generating an appropriate class of confidentiality marking/wrapper based on preset configuration parameters. Self-generate internal icon set to coincide with protection level. S/W agents that auto-report and track key assets.

MMT System-level functionality: Defines specifically what data is considered secret; the relative class of the secrets; the software protection methods utilized to actively protect (i.e. encryption), and the imputed value of creating the secrets (based upon accumulated man-hours, market studies, projected earnings, etc.)

IP Event Trigger: Based upon preset parameters, the system automatically monitors for specific behavior on the network that indicates a possible IP event. Ex: large data transfers or downloads. Increase in access rates of identified TS's. Extensive access beyond/outside pertinent class. Time-based events: employee departures; audits, etc.

IP Database: Methodology for collecting specific IP data on a unique server, updated periodically or continuously based upon preset parameters; with the capability to request status inputs from individual IP wrappers or objects.

IP Audit/Due Diligence: Computer methodology for triggering an instantaneous IP audit—dynamic update on all priority IP assets. Accumulate most current asset information, usage, risk exposure, licensing status, etc. (Departing employee situation). Generate reports based on access, usage, class, employee, type, etc.

IP Incentive: Automated methodology for promoting and tracking innovation based upon pre-selected configuration parameters. (See IMS)

IP Access: Methodology for tracking the usage/distribution of IP assets. Relate to risk exposure and safeguarding proprietary information policies. Auto-generate warnings prior to use of trade secrets.

In addition the following are also claimed:

An online registration 'engine' for ideas, innovations where the engine comprises one or more computer terminals with access to a storage device and connected to at least on other terminal by a networking protocol, either Internet TCP/IP or local or wide area network. The engine also comprises a database resident on the storage device with software operable to receive into the database details of the idea and details identifying the submitting user, and creating a relationship therebetween that together comprise the registration. A certified time stamp is optionally applied to the registration. The idea registration is then made available, according to selectable permissions and rules, to selected other users on the network.

Optionally, the same or different storage device accommodates a database for documents relating to the registered ideas etc (where documents can be anything stored electronically and/or digitally), and the database is the same as the idea registration database or is a different but operably connected database that provides an associative, recallable, and searchable relationship between the registration and any document that refers to it or is developed from it.

Optionally, a tracking engine is provided for the docs to track them and record access to them and improvements to them and derivatives from them, the engine also recording such 'set' relationships among the various docs as may be generated by common denominators such as identity of author or other major contributor, same or similar or related idea, keywords, and the like.

Also provided is an intelligent means to drive routing of docs and ideas to colleagues, selected peers, and selected or selectably automatically identified experts in the same area as the idea, for evaluation and/or analysis of docs and their ideas and for possible mutual collaboration. Optional automatic valuation and business prioritization of ideas is contemplated as well.

Optionally, means is provided by which parties made aware of the idea and or docs and any resource needs expressly contained therein may respond with commitments toward meeting all or part of the expressed resource needs, optionally joining in the enterprise which is the furtherance of the idea.

As an alternate and further disclosure the following is provided:

A system for web based development and exploitation of IP, with an innovator attraction module, a developer attraction module, a registration module, and a match module is disclosed. The registration module is adapted to accept and store dated related to an innovator and the innovator's innovation in an innovation database, and the match module is adapted to match a registered innovation and innovator with a developer having stated requirements and resources for development.

A method of web based development and exploitation of IP with the following steps is disclosed:

a. attracting a plurality of innovators, each having at least one innovation;

b. attracting at least one developer, the developer having stated requirements and verifiable resources for development of IP;

c. registering innovation data related to an innovation in a database on a storage medium connected to an information network;

d. registering developer data related to the developer's stated requirements and verifiable resources for development of IP in a database on a storage medium connected to the information network;

e. making innovation data available to a developer and developer data available to at least one innovator.

A number of different kinds of users are contemplated for the system and methods disclosed. Users may be innovators or developers; users may also belong to the general public, or specific demographic segment of the public such as youth under 18, or seniors over 55.

In preferred embodiments of the invention a web site is contemplated for housing the user interface aspects of the modules disclosed as part of the system, and for effecting the steps of the disclosed methods. This web site, or a plurality of such sites, are anticipated to be owned and/or operated by a variety of interested parties. For example a company develops such a site to foster and encourage and track and reward innovation amongst its own employees and contractors; or an industry segment jointly effects such a site to encourage innovation within the segment; or a public body such as local, state or federal government, or agencies or departments of such bodies, or institutions of such bodies (libraries and universities) effects an innovation site such as that disclosed. Special interest groups such as environmentalists, global health or ecological concerns, or more local community concerns will also sponsor or operate such sites. Any given site may be an intranet and relatively closed to access by general public users; or it may be an extranet, or it may be fully open to the entire internet, or anywhere in between, limited only by its owners to effectuate its particular purposes.

Innovators can be attracted to such a site for a number of reasons and in a number of ways. Some desire to be validated in an evaluation and/or reward process; others wish to learn more about their craft of innovation and about how to more effectively and profitably exploit the fruits of their creativity; still others wish to see and perhaps compare their innovations with the innovations of others, and all come to be encouraged. The preferred site offers evaluation, prize and other financial reward opportunities, invited professional expertise in innovation and exploitation skills and resources, a database of other innovations, categorized into industries and fields of creative endeavor, and the like, and by keyword, and such other indicia as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. But especially, the preferred site offers encouragement to all users who visit.

Developers (which is to say all those individuals and companies that bring commitment and resources to the task of perfecting, marketing and otherwise exploiting IP to mutual profit and global benefit) can also be attracted to such a site for a number of reasons and in a number of ways. Some will be attracted to a pool of

raw innovation ('raw' in the sense that, depending on the origin and sponsorship of the particular site of course, most innovators will typically not be pre-tied to a research institution or corporate research apparatus - except in sites run by just such organizations, but as to those innovators, they are typically not pre-tied to any outside interests); others to the intrinsic and extrinsic of sponsorship, desiring to build goodwill in the community, especially in Community Corner and Kids Corner type sites or subsites, as well as to the more tangible benefits of branding and brand identification to the innovator pool and other users and visitors to the site; others will be attracted by the opportunity to run infomercial and other marketing on the site, and still others will be eager to have a finger on a grass roots technology pulse.

The preferred site offers the pool of raw innovation and eager innovators; it provides a variety of opportunities for highly visible sponsorship, from banner ads to contest prizes; it provides a platform for infomercialization that is a true win/win by educating users as it also markets to them; and the pulse of innovation available by searches of the site database will provide valuable background to other data more usually watched by technology development executives.

The site provides a ready vehicle and means to get ideas registered and transformed into searchable and trackable data. Ideas and innovations and their related data can preferably be tracked both before and after any match ups with developers, and innovation data updates and developer resources and match outcome updates can be tracked as well. All innovator users have the option of specifying levels of permission for the dissemination and/or sharing of their innovation data. Recurrent innovator input is encouraged, as is recurrent follow up by developers with their innovator prospects, generating in preferred embodiments a kind of interactive and iterative feedback between the develop and innovator, all to the positive in further developing the innovation and bringing it to successful exploitation. This extra- or post- match interaction is preferably tracked as well, and all data tracked is preferably stored in a database for retrieval and analysis.

Throughout the disclosure, where single databases are referred to, or multiple or connected databases are referred to, it is intended that each shall optionally have the meaning of the other, so that one database may be the equivalent of several others and a network of databases may be the equivalent, for disclosure purposes, of a single database. All matches referred to in the disclosure may be understood to refer to one

to one matches, or one to many, or many to one, or many to many, as makes best sense in any particular embodiment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a set of charts showing corporate predilections for (a) repositories of data and (b) obstacles to creation of a fully function IP system.

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a trade secret monitoring aspect of the system.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of an Internet innovation marketing aspect of the system.

Figure 4a-d is set of screen shots showing an Explorer aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a-c showing an earlier version and details on a system trade secret search, and with d showing a corresponding but updated Web version of a File Cabinet search page.

Figure 5a-b is a set of screen shots showing a Classes/Users aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing a corresponding but updated Web version of a Human Resource search page.

Figure 6 is a screen shot showing a Data Analysis aspect of the IMS VB GUI.

Figure 7a-c is a set of screen shots showing a innovation database Search Results aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b-c showing corresponding but updated Web versions of a Database Search page and a NDA Tracker page.

Figure 8a-b is a set of screen shots showing a Monitor aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing corresponding but updated Web version of an alternate search results page.

Figure 9a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Home Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 10a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Submissions Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 11a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Search Results Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 12 is a screen shot showing an Innovator Corporate Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 13 is a screen shot showing an Innovator Top Innovations Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 14a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Database Search Results Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 15a-d is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Management Tools aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b-d showing updated versions.

Figure 16a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Summary Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 17a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Details Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 18 is a Trade Secret System Overview Diagram .

Figure 19 is a schematic of the NMPS system of the invention.

Figure 20 is a schematic of the FMS system of the invention.

Figure 21 is screen shot of the IPX VB Explorer.

Figure 22 is screen shot of the IPX VB Classes/Users.

Figure 23 is screen shot of the IPX VB Trade Secret Classes.

Figure 24 is screen shot of the IPX VB User list.

Figure 25 is screen shot of the IPX VB User Classes.

Figure 26 is screen shot of the IPX VB Permissions.

Figure 27 is screen shot of the IPX VB IP TS Removal Options.

Figure 28a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation submission pages.

Figure 29a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation database search pages.

Figure 30a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation search results pages.

Figure 31is a screen shot of an Innovator Summary Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 32 is a screen shot of an Innovator Management Tools aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 33 is a screen shot of a main index page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 34 is a diagram of an aspect of the FMS system.

Figure 35a is a screen shot of a user overview page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 35b is a screen shot of a submission for collaboration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 36 is a screen shot of a search agent configuration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 37 is a screen shot of a personal bio page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 38 is a screen shot of a collaboration seek and results page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 39 is a screen shot of an analysis / ranking module page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 40 is a screen shot of a IP asset detail page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 41 is a screen shot of a resources contribution page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 42 is a screen shot of a technology transfer enablement page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 43 is a screen shot of a search agents configuration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 44 is a table of contents for a preferred website.

Figure 45 is a home page for a preferred website.

Figure 46 is a Contest page for a preferred website.

Figure 47 is a Corporate Corner subsite Home for a preferred website.

Figure 48a-c is a Top Innovations page for a preferred website.

Figure 49 is an Industry Hubs page for a preferred website.

Figure 50 is Semiconductor subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 51 is a Licensing Hubs page for a preferred website.

Figure 52a-b is an Idea Submission page for a preferred website.

Figure 53 is a Kids Center page for a preferred website.

Figure 54a-b is a Best Ideas subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 55 is a Bike Riders Club subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 56 is a submission wizard and drawing tool subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 57 is a Community page for a preferred website.

Figure 58 is a Life Sciences subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 59 is a Social Problems subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 60 is an Inventors page for a preferred website.

Figure 61 is a Strategic Resources subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 62a-b is a Site News and Updates page for a preferred website.

Figure 63 is a Database Search page for a preferred website.

Figure 64 is a Registration page for a preferred website.

Figure 65 is a flowchart of a preferred embodiment.

BEST MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

A. Innovation Management System (IMS)

A.1. Innovation Quick Overview: This subsystem is the primary idea input system for the end-user. The main purpose is for the end-user to enter ideas into the system so that they can be "recorded" for other purposes. As an idea is entered, the date/time is automatically entered as well, and the user has the comfort of knowing that his/her idea has been officially recorded. Along with recording the actual idea (via spreadsheet, word processor document, etc), the user also enters pertinent information such as key words, descriptions, supporting references, pictures, department number, employee id, protection level, other authors, etc. Users are also able to search through previously recorded ideas (theirs or other peoples') before submitting an idea to see if their innovation is unique, or view the number of times other people have viewed their submissions. Users are also able to view educational news stories concerning corporate IP (or other configurable source; this is configured by the user). See Figure 35a.

A.1.1. Configuration: This allows the Innovator to be customized by the user. The user can pick colors, skins, and java applets to personalize their space. Configuration also occurs dynamically, i.e., the user can change the placement of various tables and graphs.

A.2. Innovation Submission: This is the main submission functionality. It includes methods for attaching documents, entering ancillary data (dept. number, key words, etc.), the amount of time spent generating the idea, and references. After an idea is

submitted, an e-mail message is automatically sent to the user (as verification) and to the user's immediately supervisor. The system can be configured to send e-mail messages (or hard copy printouts) to any number of peers, groups, or managers. E-mail verification is an important step in the trade secret process. By sending an e-mail to the manager and/or IP department, a determination can be made as to whether the innovation is to be classified as a trade secret or patent protected, or whether it should be deleted. The user is notified of any change in status via e-mail so that any discrepancies can be challenged. Ideas that are successfully submitted are available for viewing in the user's file cabinet.

A.2.1. Paper-Based Submission: For ideas that may need to have paper-based documents submitted, this functionality addresses the situation. The user makes a notation in the system, i.e., title, date of the paper document, then the system generates a unique barcode to affix to the document for tracking. From them on, the document is associated with the idea and is tracked by barcode.

A.2.2. Collaborative Document Submission: This duplicates the functionality of an innovation submission, but allows the user to submit "other documents" that might be useful for collaboration or sharing. The idea is that the more people are willing to share (if they get credit), the better off the organization is. See Figure 35b.

A.3. Innovation Tracking: This records the date, number of times an idea is accessed and downloaded, and by whom it is accessed (including external viewing on via an unprotected location, see C.1). Data stored in other databases is managed via the FMS. As ideas are viewed, the AMS in conjunction with the FMS determine the level of protection afforded, i.e., encryption, visual warning, etc. This function also records the results of key word searches as described in the D3.3 and D3.4.

A.4. Innovation Searching: This function allows users to search the idea database for similar innovations or authors with similar ideas for collaboration. Searching can be based on key words, authors, dates, abstracts, or descriptive classifications. An important element of this search mechanism is that it allows searching in the internal corporate network (LAN/Intranet) as well as through external sources. Internal searches are augmented by searching network servers and repositories as well as through interfaces to document management/knowledge management systems. Internal results return the relevant matches as well as the person/team responsible for the match. External searches can be handled in two different ways, either directly by the innovator system through the company's network or via an external source,

such as MindMatters. The importance is that a third party can perform a search without disclosing the identity of the entity requesting the information, this is particularly important when competitive searches are made. See Figure 36.

A.5. Innovation Statistics: This function allows the user to view statistics on any ideas in the database. Statistics include: author, key words, date submitted, number of times viewed, number of contributions by the author, and viewing rank (the higher the number of times other people viewed the idea, the higher the ranking). If the idea has been submitted for peer review or the status of a review are also possible to see. If the company has an award program, statistics on this are shown as well. For example, if the a particular idea won "best new computer software", then this accolade is shown.

A.5.1. Personal Statistics: This function allows the user to see his/her personal innovation statistics. This includes: personal home page hits, file cabinet hits, citations, downloads, collaboration agent hits, submissions, analyses performed, NDA citations, patents, Internet publications, licenses, and accepted submissions among other things. See Figure 30a&b.

A.6. Innovation Reporting: This function presents all of the ideas in a summary manner. Managers are able to view the number of ideas submitted per individual, department, or division; the frequency of ideas submitted by day, week, month, etc.; the types of ideas by key word, area, etc.

A.7. Publish Biographical Information: Generates an automatic home page based on previously entered data, network user information, file cabinet data, and user input. See Figure 37.

A.8. Relationship Manager: This is a mechanism for increasing person-to-person communication and networking within large networks, i.e., corporate, Internet, intranet. With a large number of people in a network (physical or electronic), it can be very difficult to locate people within the network who others can collaborate with in various development and marketing initiatives. When locating others within a particular network, a person may be trying to find complementary skills/experiences or similar skills/experiences. For example, in some large corporations, it is nearly impossible to locate all of the pockets of work associated with Java, pervasive computing, or semiconductor research. Although many of these environments have various internal stratifications, countless organization charts, re-organization efforts, and databases, the most common method employed is word-of-mouth or random hit-

and-miss calls using one of the aforementioned information sources. Most of the titles and job responsibilities are either out-of-date or meaningless. There are several observations of the current situation:

- People "network connectivity" is based on seniority in the corporate environment and on submission of data to search portals, not skill, capability, or interest.
- Organizational turnover creates people-network gaps.
- Duplicated effort results from uncoordinated pockets of activity, such as sales people from different departments talking to the same customer.
- Lost productivity spent meeting with the wrong people, a critical misstep since today's marketplace demands increasingly faster speed of execution.
- There is no "trust" factor. It is difficult to assess whether a person is credible, honest, or representing themselves properly, particularly on the Internet, but also to some extent in corporate environments.
- People need a motivating mechanism in order to keep personal data updated

A.8.1. Collaboration: This function allows the user to submit new collaborative agents, check on the status of "hits" to his/her file cabinet, and check on the status of "hits" to his/her home page. It is important to note that this collects metrics that are used to determine the "value" of an idea. For example, if a particular person's innovation has received many "hits" from other users, then that is a good indication that the innovation has created value for the company. See Figure 38.

A.8.2. Agent: Users can enter search agents into the system. Each agent, which can be terms that are either related or unrelated to the user's innovations, scans the systems new submissions and home pages for key words. If located results are posted for later viewing. The agent searches both current and archived innovations, document management systems and home pages.

8.2.1. Automatic: This function builds a relationship profile based on the user's department, title, and file cabinet. This is supplemented by the user and available to the search engine.

8.2.2. Custom: This function allows the user to build their own profile. It includes fields of interest, title, department, research areas, etc.

A.8.3. Home Page Hits: This tells the user what other agents have found his/her home page as a source. So, if another user's agent finds my home page, then I am notified for follow-up as well.

A.8.4. File Cabinet Hits: Similar to above. If another agent finds used my file cabinet submission as a source, then I am notified.

A.9. NDA Tracker: This module allows the user to enter and track NDAs. Users enter time/date, attendees, document number, and company name as well as any IP that was disclosed. The system can generate an automatic NDA if necessary. These NDAs are linked back to existing IP.

B. Analysis/Ranking Module

This set of tools allows peer groups, IP counsel, or other trusted sources to rank and prioritize innovations that are entered (either through the Innovator or manually) into the system. The power of these tools is highlighted in their ability to quantify both objective and subjective measurement criteria. The rankings are aggregated and weighed relative to the company's strategic objectives, that is, a company can decide that financial factors such as development expense or ROI are more/less important than customer-relationship factors such as new product introductions or quality. Once ranked, innovations can then be compared against each other and scientific judgments can be made regarding level of investment. See Figure 39.

B.1. Collaboration: This functionality allows external/internal users to be automatically notified that they need to add their analysis of a particular idea. Notification can be automatically configured based on users' preferences, i.e., if I am an expert on neural networks, then I get notified automatically should any ideas in this topic area become available. Optionally, notification can be manual, where a link is sent to the desire person. The link is active and allows them to instantly access the analysis/ranking functions for that particular innovation.

B.2. Innovation Rating/Analysis: This functionality allows for the rating and prioritization of ideas/innovations in addition to files. This functionality includes entering idea descriptive information, rating the ideas according to the method defined below, and comparing the ratings of all ideas to determine the best places to make investments. As part of the analysis process, analysis requests are sent to independent people for valuation.

B.2.1. Rating

2.1.1. Rating Factors: this allows the user to enter the rating factor categories. After all categories are entered, the user can determine the relative importance of each factor with respect to goals, costs, or benefits, etc. The relative importance is determined by using the pair-wise comparison technique. Different importance

ratings can be saved, for example, one set of ratings might be used for healthcare ideas/innovations whereas another might be used for semiconductor innovations.

2.1.2. Rating Factors Variables: For each rating factor category, multiple questions/variables can be entered for evaluation. For example, for a rating factor of technical merit, the variables might be 1) difficulty to reproduce and 2) cost to reproduce. Variables are structured such that a numerical value can be entered or that a numerical value can be inferred, i.e., 1=bad, 10=good, or little=1 and large=10. Initially, these variables each receive equal weight, however, functionality to rate the relative importance of each of these variables is optionally contemplated.

2.1.3. Calculate Index: Based on the ratings of the individual variables, the index is calculated as follows: sum each category on a base of 100, then multiple that answer by the rating factor relative importance.

2.1.4. Comparative Analysis: In addition to rating innovations by absolute factors, they can also be ranked comparatively. In this manner, innovations are ranked relative to other user-selected innovations, i.e., Idea A versus Idea B. Even though ideas are ranked relatively, they are stilled assigned a numerical score based on the difference between the two ideas. In this case, a score of 5, for any particular factor indicates no difference between Idea A and Idea B, a score of 1 ranks Idea B much worse compared to Idea A, and a score of 10 indicates that Idea B is much better than Idea A.

2.1.5. Qualitative: As another ranking/analysis alternative, the user is given the option of adding non-quantitative measures as well. This is preferably manifested as a simple comment field, or a discussion of the relative merits versus competitors among others.

B.2.2. Routing: After the author has performed his/her analysis, links to the analysis web page can be sent to people for independent analysis. The author has the ability to pick from an IMS-generated list of people with the expertise required to send the analysis request to.

2.2.1. Analysis Valuation Points: People who are selected for an analysis request are awarded valuation points.

B.3. Valuation Manager:

B.3.1. Citations: Capability to relate new documents to previously generated documents. When a new innovation is submitted, there is an opportunity to list references. These references generate valuation points for the original author(s).

B.3.2. Searches/Hits: When a database search or collaboration search returns hits, these hits generate valuation points for the original author(s). The hits must be from unique users and the valuation is based on the relevance of the hit, i.e., if the hit is 65 out of 100, the valuation is lower than if the relevance was 3 out of 100.

B.3.3. Downloads: When a person actually downloads or views a returned "hit" then the original author receives valuation points.

B.3.4. NDA Tracker: IP that is listed within the context of an NDA also receives valuation points.

B.3.5. Analysis: The results of the analysis in B.2 above is another component in determining the overall valuation. Optionally, the people who perform the individual analysis are scored according to their total relevancy points. For example, if a person is recognized as the premier expert in a discipline, then that person's valuation has more impact on the overall score.

B.3.6. External: This assigns valuation points for Internet publications, hits on the Internet, and licensing of an innovation.

3.6.1. Internet Publication

3.6.2. Licensing

B.4. Accounting Analysis: This function accommodates the financial analysis of an innovation.

B.5. Innovation Marketing: This function provides marketing information to the user. Since information on innovations/ideas has already been enter through other parts of this system, this information can be properly formatted and then sent to third party databases for marketing leads. At these third party sites, marketing leads are automatically generated based on the input from the MMT system. Additionally, the user can add/modify information associated with an idea before it is sent so that a more complete marketing framework can be constructed. When the leads are returned to the system, this function automatically aggregates them and presents them to the user so that they can be used for follow-up, i.e., direct mail, phone, e-mail. Leads are annotated and tracked and can be exported to third-party contact managers.

C. Licensing Web Site & Intra-Organization Sharing

C.1. Innovation Exchanger: This function allows certain classes, key words, etc. of ideas to be published to an externally (unprotected) viewable location. The purpose of external publishing is to foster the development or use of ideas by other entities. By publishing basic information such as brief abstract, application area, and key words,

along with a unique id, external viewers can read the briefs and determine whether a particular idea is worth following up. If an external viewer was interested in gathering more information, he/she can click a button that automatically sends the ID number in an e-mail to the corporate IP (or other) department for consideration. This function records the exchange of e-mails concerning the innovation.

C.1.1. Internet Publisher: This function allows the user (providing they have correct access) to submit an idea for publication on the Internet. This is either on the organizations external Internet connected site or to the MMT Internet site. Users are able to select one or both, the date to publish, the duration to publish, expiration, contact point, and what types of information are to be made available, i.e., inventor's name, potential applications, category, score, etc.

C.1.2. Organization Intranet Publisher: This function is identical to C.1.1, however, it allows a separate configuration for internal viewing. Whereas a company may not want to have the inventor's name published to an external website, they may want it published internally.

D. Network Monitoring and Protection System

This Network Monitoring and Protection System preferably comprises some or all of three functional components: Agent Monitoring System (AMS), File Management Server (FMS), and a Trade Secret System (TSS). The system provides complete protection of trade secrets by defining what data is considered a secret, who is allowed access to the secrets, what type of access is permitted, and by enforcing policies for accountability, awareness, and security. See Figure 19.

The system can be used in at least two different modes: either with or without the Agent Monitoring System running. In the former, the client PC makes a request through the AMS, and the file is returned from the File Management Server into this process. In this case, the AMS and the FMS communicate with each other and the File Management Server provides trade secrets based on all of the available rules. In the latter mode, any client can be used to access files on the protected server. In this case, the AMS and the FMS do not communicate with each other, instead the File Management Server monitors the trade secrets and applies the protections based on the rules which do not include the user. See Figure 20. Other modes include:

- Full Protection Mode: The AMS along with the FMS and TSS are all running. This provides the ultimate level of protection as the trade secrets are fully wrapped and are monitored on the PC/client.

- Medium Protection: The AMS is not running, but the FMS is actively monitoring the trade secrets and is wrapping them with protections that can be employed when the AMS is not running. For example, the display of a visual warning, encryption, and password protection is available without the AMS.

D.1. Agent Monitoring System (AMS): The AMS resides on the client hardware, usually a PC, and monitors the user actions on the trade secret files. The AMS acts as a permissions agent, giving the ability to read, print, mail, etc the trade secret by the user. In some cases, the AMS communicates with the File Management Server concerning the use of the trade secret. These communications can either be batched or transmitted continuously.

D.1.1. Trade Secret Viewer: This is the central controlling process on the agent machine. It is the vehicle by which the user makes the request for the trade secret, it handles the incoming approved trade secret storage, launches any applications that are necessary to process the trade secret (for example, the user wants to print the trade secret out, then this process starts the word processor application), and this process sends activities it performs to the Trade Secret Monitor.

D.1.2. Event Manager: This function reads the wrapper on the trade secret and then schedules any events that are necessary, i.e., deleting or changing the trade secret after a certain number of days. This process also sends all activities to the TSS.

D.1.3. Trade Secret Monitor: The Trade Secret Monitor records all activities performed on a trade secret, and sends the events to the File Management Server. It can also watch for activities from any launched applications dealing with the trade secret, send reports, or watch a certain data area on the disk.

D.2. File Management Server (FMS): The FMS handles all requests for trade secrets from the AMS (user). The FMS checks the user name against a password list (network, asked via browser, employee id, etc) and verify the user before allowing a file request to be made. Once the user is verified, the trade secret requested file is matched with the rules associated with that particular trade secret, encrypted, wrapped with a monitoring agent, logged and sent back to the AMS. The File Management Server maintains information about trade secrets such as: artwork, designs, blue prints, tools, methods, patents, trademarks, copyrights, maskwork, computer files, databases, business logic (computer code and methods) and other proprietary information that may be defined from time to time. With respect to each type of intellectual property, the FMS maintains information on dates (last update,

when added, when deleted, various stages of property (patent pending, patent, etc), a description of the property, title, ownership, coverage, inventor/author, licensing, and supporting documents. The FMS contains all of the functionality to select files/directories/servers as trade secrets, create classes of trade secrets, create classes of users, apply permissions (encryption, visual notice, etc) to trade secrets, classes of trade secrets, users, or users of trade secrets, and to create rules by mapping trade secrets (or classes of trade secrets) to users (or users of trade secrets).

D.2.1. Request Handler: This process handles incoming trade secret requests, verifies the user from the network password list, initiates the request, and eventually sends back the requested file or a deny. This function can either be called directly such as the case with the AMS makes a specific request, or in "sniffer" mode it can watch the network traffic for files/transactions that have been designated as trade secrets.

D.2.2. Trade Secret Management: This function allows administrators to select/deselect files, directories, or servers/workstations, locations, etc to be used as trade secrets. The administrator selects by clicking a check box next to each file/directory/server/location. (Similar implementation as a Windows Backup program). Additional functions within this group allow for specific types of intellectual property to be described in more detail. For example, drawings may contain references to authors, creation dates, or products that incorporate the features described. Each type of intellectual property has its own set of attributes that can be tracked. See Figure 21.

D.2.3. Rules Management: This function allows the administrator to create rules. Rules are the mapping of trade secrets and trade secret classes to users and user classes. The administrator is allowed to add, change, or delete rules by rule number, class name, or user. The rule consists of a mapping (either one to many, one to one, many to many, or many to one) which describes the relationship between the intellectual property and the user(s). See Figure 22. See Figure 40.

D.2.4. Class Management: This function sets up classes of trade secrets and users for the rules. The purpose is to make rule definition faster. By setting entire classes of files as trade secrets, either by server, location, etc. then the rules can be set up once for the entire class instead of one file at a time.

D.2.4.1. Trade Secret Classes: This function consists of a listing of directories, servers, or grouping of files that consist of a class, the class name, and the permissions for the class. The list also contains previously selected files/directories/servers as well,

so that the administrator can select them and put them into a class. Administrators have the ability to add, delete, or modify classes. Trade secret classes can be viewed/sorted by trade secret, class, or permissions. See Figure 23.

D.2.4.2. User Classes: This function consists of a list of network users, their class, and the permissions of the for the class. The list also contains all network users as well, so that the administrator can select them and put them into a class. Administrators have the ability to add, delete, or modify classes. User classes can be viewed/sorted by user name, class, or permissions. See Figure 24. See Figure 25.

D.2.4.3. Permission Management: This function assigns permissions to user and trade secret classes. See Figure 26. For example, this allows the trade secret class "research" to have the permissions as designated in the Security Manager (D3.4). A permission can consist of the following attributes in any combination:

D.2.4.3.1. None: In this instance, no tracking is performed. In most cases, this de-activates existing rules.

D.2.4.3.2. Visual Warning: This presents a "blue screen" or some type of visual display on the client PC. This is displayed each time the trade secret is accessed, informing the user of the trade secret that the information is confidential (or some other messages entered by the administrators)

D.2.4.3.3. Password: This rule demands a password to access the trade secret each time it is accessed by the user. This can either be a password that is made up by the user when they initially download the trade secret, or it can be their normal network password, or a completely different password set by the administrator.

D.2.4.3.4. Encryption: This rule encrypts the trade secret by one of the commonly available methods set by the administrator.

D.2.4.3.5. Agent: This type of rule allows the trade secret to be monitored by tracking any modifications to the file (or alternatively the physical data), and monitoring key strokes. It also allows the trade secret to be deleted after a certain number of days automatically by the Agent Monitoring System residing on the PC. It can be further refined to perform NSA or other data segment erasing methods to ensure complete removal from the system. The agent also gives the option of sending tracking information back to the File Management Server for analysis by the administrator, or "insisting" that the agent be allowed to communicate with the FMS before any further actions are allowed on the trade secret.

D.2.5. File Wrapper System: This process is extremely complex as it grabs the file/data and performs the functions required in the rules, including encryption, setting expiration dates, translating the file to an executable image, called a wrapper (file+rules+agent), etc. The wrapper can also contain the Agent Monitoring System. The file/data can either be a specific file/data pulled in from the network via TCP/IP sniffing, a file/data pulled from a specific location, or the file/data that is a result of an external query (database call). All of these actions are logged. The executable image is in a format that can be processed (read, print, modify, delete, etc) by the Agent Monitoring System.

D.2.6. Reporting System :This process takes information from the log files, rules, wrappers, etc. and prepares reports on usage, activity etc.

D.3. Trade Secret System (TSS): This functional process manages the accountability, awareness, secrecy, and security (four trade secret pillars) status of each trade secret. This process also allows the user to dynamic change each of the four pillars to reflect strategic changes in the business. The TSS is the primary mechanism for creating the rules.

D.3.1. Awareness Manager: This function tracks and logs a company's (or entity's) IP Policies, management oversight procedures, the dissemination of an understanding of Public Disclosure (as defined by U.S. Law), the tracking and dissemination of What a Trade Secret is (according to U.S. Law). The purpose is to show that various supervision entities have created awareness for trade secrets as prescribed by law, and that the people who use the trade secrets have a clear understanding, and hence accountability of the trade secrets that they use.

D.3.1.1. Trade Secret Finder: This function determines potential trade secrets by "reading" files on the network and comparing the text with lists of key words and phrases entered by the management. This is designed to be used periodically to maintain integrity of the system. Final decisions regarding a documents status are made by management.

D.3.1.2. Trade Secret Eliminator: This function determines which trade secrets should be demoted and removed from protection. By searching by key word, date, and usage, the function intelligently makes recommendations for removal. Final removal is determined by management. See Figure 27.

D.3.2. Accountability Manager: This function tracks and logs a company's IP reviews, employment contracts/IP agreements. The purpose of this function is to track

contracts and paper trails that provide awareness of the trade secrets. Reports from this function give the complete detail on the level of trade secret usage/disclosure by aggregating class information, trade secret information, user activities, user awareness acknowledgments, and external data to give a rating as to the protectability of the trade secret. By measuring where the trade secret is used, how it is disclosed, how it is protected, and employee awareness a rating can be generated. Intelligent search function uses key words plus SIC Code and other market-specific information to conduct a more intelligent search. This function employs "spider" graphs and the pair-wise comparison methods described elsewhere herein.

D.3.3. Secrecy Manager: This function tracks and logs confidentiality agreements, publications, press releases, and marketing collateral associated with a company's trade secrets. This process maintains access to the external networks (Internet) and conducts key-word searches to find other companies/disclosures of monitored trade secrets. There are several third-party products that can be hooked into this system to perform this function. This process provides the interface.

D.3.4. Security Manager: This function tracks and logs public access to workspaces, network security, E-mail, and demonstrations. This process is the primary interface to e-mail monitoring programs and external physical security systems (tracking ID card usage, etc.)

This section further describes some typical use of the System. Because of the nature of the System, it is not always possible to numerically delineate an exclusive sequence of events, however, each subparagraph represents at least one (sometimes many) functional aspect of the system. There are three general functional flows presented in this section: the user, the administrator, and the manager. The user is the person who wants to view/modify the trade secret, the administrator sets up rules, wrappers, and files/directories/machines as trade secrets, and the manager defines trade secret policies and runs/views reports.

User Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

· If the name and password are valid, and the trade secret is allowed to be accessed by the user, then the file is wrapped according to the rules set forth by the administrator.

· Wrapping takes place in the File Management Server and creates a binary executable of the file with the wrapping contents. The wrapper can also contain the Agent Monitoring System (if the user does not have it, but it is required for file access).

· The file is sent back to the user's PC.

· The user double-clicks (or opens, or performs some other function which initiates access to the trade secret) on the trade secret file.

· If the wrapper required encryption, then the trade secret is decrypted.

· If the wrapper required a password, then the user is prompted for the password.

· If the wrapper required a visual warning, then a "blue screen" is presented to the user so that the confidentiality of the trade secret is described and the responsibilities to the user are presented.

· If the user types an invalid password X times, then the trade secret is rendered inoperable (either deleted or stays dormant), the appropriate logs are generated by the Agent Monitoring System, and if required the log information is sent to the File Management Server.

· If the Agent Monitoring System (AMS) has been activated, then it begins recording activities defined by the administrator that occur on the trade secret document.

· If the AMS receives a command from the user to view the trade secret, then the appropriate application is started (probably Adobe Acrobat with modification attributes set on startup) and the document is displayed. Depending on the user's pre-determined authorization, the application allows the user to read/write/delete/update the trade secret. Each action by the user is logged locally, and can be communicated back to the File Management Server.

· If the AMS determines that the trade secret should be deleted, then the AMS deletes the file and performs the secure erasing method. This activity is logged, and communicated back to the FMS is required.

· The user receives a mail message informing him/her that new IP policies are now in place and should be reviewed for compliance. The user reads the policy (on the internal web server) and responds by electronically signing the policy.

Administration Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

· The administrator sets up the File Management Server to be either in one of three modes: with the Agent Monitoring System running or without. If the Agent Monitoring System is running, this implies that the AMS software is either resident on the user's PC or the AMS software is wrapped with a requested file and sent to the user's PC to be installed before the trade secret is viewed. Using the AMS software

implies that a greater level of protection is operational as the AMS records information in addition to the File Management Server that records the initial request.

· The administrator further sets up the FMS by deciding whether the FMS should be set into "sniffer" mode, where it simply records requests/receipts of trade secrets, or whether it should be set to intervene between every receipt by appropriately wrapping the trade secret with protections.

· The administrator sets up the FMS to the type of network(s) being monitored, such as TCP, IPX, NetBUI, etc. and the types of network packets being tracked, such as IP, HTTP, etc.

· The administrator uses network services to set up the FMS server as a client in the system. This ensures that this server receives all updates about user access, including the network password list.

· The administrator runs the Trade Secret Finder to locate various trade secrets. First, the administrator entered key words, projects, locations, servers, etc. and the Finder presents a list of possible machines, folders, and documents to protect. This saves the administrator time in setting up the system.

· The administrator selects any combination of servers, directories, and files to be designated as trade secrets. If no other actions are performed, i.e., no rules are set up, then the FMS goes into default mode where it simply records the access to each trade secret. Access records contain file name, file location, user, date/time, and other identification.

· The administrator further designates classes of trade secrets. These classes group the trade secrets according to policy defined at the company, such as by physical location, by server, by company department, by directory, by trade secret type, etc.. For example, the administrator may assigned the trade secret class "research" to the servers located in the company's research lab in Seattle, Washington. This preferably consists of the five machines and their corresponding files and directories. In another example, the administrator may define the class "project X" to include the directories labeled C:\project_x on the servers in Tampa, Florida and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of defining classes is to make the application of rules simpler.

· The administrator further designates classes of users. These classes group users according to viewing restrictions. Classes can be defined by location, by job function, by current network access privileges, by department, by title, by name, etc. For example, the administrator may define all users who have the title "research

assistant" to a user class called "research-assistant" and to have view-only access to any trade secrets. In another example, the administrator may define users who reside in Orlando, Florida to have view and modify writes to any trade secrets, as well as the ability to delete trade secrets that have been downloaded to the users more than 30 days. Or simply, the administrator may select all users that live in Redmond, Washington to a class labeled "redmond".

· The administrator sets up rules by mapping either trade secrets or classes of trade secrets with users or classes of users, and by adding/modifying/deleting further file manipulation properties. For example, the administrator sets user class "research assistant" (which has view-only access) to trade secret class "research" (which can look at files on the Seattle, Washington server). In addition, the administrator may elect to further refine this rule by requiring that all trade secrets are also encrypted and password protected.

· If the company is managing assets loaded into third-party databases, i.e., Oracle, DB2, Access, then only classes of users can be designated.

· If databases are being monitored, then in addition to user name, date/time, and other identifying information, the FMS also records the database calls.

Manager Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

· A manager decides to enter a new trade secret into the system. Since the physical file is already present on the company's network file system, the manager uses a Windows Explorer-like tool to find and select the desired file. Selection takes place by placing a check mark next to the file. Similarly, if the file is originally placed into an already protected directory, then the new file receives the same level of protection as the current files in the directory.

· The manager enters information regarding the ownership, economic value, and key words to be associated with the trade secrets.

· A manager decides to enter a new user. In this case, the manager uses a tool that brings up all users for the network. It is assumed that the new user has been added to the company's network file system. The manager then selects the user and either puts him/her into an existing class, creates a new class for that user, or assigns access rights to the individual user.

· The manager is presented with a monthly REVIEW FOR REMOVAL report indicating files that need to be re-verified as trade secrets. This report lists the trade secrets that are "owned" by him/her, the file, date, accesses, etc. These files were

either selected by the intelligent removal agent, or are generated by administrator direction in order to keep the system updated. The manager either checks or un-checks files that should be removed.

· The manager enters IP policy files into the Awareness Manager.

· The manager selects an IP policy or policies and a class or classes or users and requests that a notice be sent to all of the users (in the selected class) informing them of new IP policies.

· The manager later views a USER AWARENESS report that indicates which employees have read and responded to the new policies.

· The manager enters a new vendor contract, licensing agreement, joint venture, etc. document that includes the disclosure of certain corporate trade secrets. This document is tied to the trade secrets it covers so that trade secrets that leave the company and go into the hands of third parties can be tracked.

· When this third party relationship is terminated, a THIRD PARTY DISCLOSURE report of all disclosed trade secrets is printed, and the trade secrets are either destroyed (and marked accordingly in the system), or returned (and marked accordingly). The appropriate dates and other related information are entered into the system at this time.

· The manager prints out a trade secret along with a disclosure to give to a third party, this information is automatically recorded.

· A new employee is hired and entered into the system. Based on the user's assigned class, a set of materials (IP policies, non-disclosure, etc) are automatically generated and printed. When the documents are signed and returned to the employee file, this information is entered into the system.

· The manager prints a TRADE SECRET DISCLOSURE report that lists each trade secret, the users who have accessed it, what activities were performed on the trade secret, what the level of protection of the trade secret is, where it is located, and what third parties have the trade secret.

· The manager prints a USER DISCLOSURE report that details the trade secrets accessed by the user, the types of activities performed on the trade secret, and the time and date. Any obsolete trade secrets are listed as such, but all of the information is presented.

· An employee terminates their employment. Along with a USER DISCLOSURE report, a form which indicates that the user is leaving, and a notice which informs the

employee about their responsibilities to keep the listed trade secrets confidential. This form is entered into the employee file.

· The manager requests a PROTECTABILITY report. Based on the types of disclosures, activities, level of awareness of users, public disclosures, this report provides a rating as to the protectability of the trade secret. For example, if a trade secret has been accessed by users that have not read the IP policies, then the protectability is lower.

· The manager views a SECRECY report that details suspected exposure of the trade secret outside the corporate network as well as potential external information that could render the trade secret useless. The manager reviews this information and determines the extent of exposure for each entry in the list.

· The manager is presented with various reports from external IPX systems via the SECURITY report. This aggregates information about e-mail, physical security, etc., and relates it to the trade secrets. For example, e-mail scanners which have detected key words being sent to external parties might raise an alarm. Physical security which has been compromised where trade secrets are located is an indicator of trade secrets to be flagged for possible removal.

Further specification of the components of the System follows:

File Management System (FMS)

A File Management System is advantageously located on an MMT or other corporate server. LAN packet detector and decoder technology (such as from Packetboy, Australia; LinkView, www.linkview.com, US; NetSniffer, www.assert.ee/netsniffer/index.html; NetXRay, Cinco) is employed in a manner that will be known to those skilled in the art. The FMS exists in promiscuous mode, and reads the packets. Reading a packet generally means to decode packet contents, determine if it contains data (ie trade secret) that is being monitored by reading results of the action completed below with respect to marked selections of files being stored for monitoring. Monitored files are optionally and advantageously put into filters for the LAN detector; and positive filter results are placed into a file for use by the wrapper function described below. If the packet contains a trade secret, then it is sent to the wrapper application process

File Selection is preferably with check boxes (similar to Backup utilities). Functions are alternatively coded in VB using VTREE routines, or such like as may be known to those skilled in the art. All servers, directories, files are preferably

encompassed; servers, directories, as well as files may be selected by checking a box. Marked selections are then stored for monitoring, such as discussed above.

Trade secret classes are created (via custom VB functions, or the like or equivalent as will be known to those skilled in the art, such as HTML and Java coding equivalents to VB). The marked list from above, as modified by files suggested (or alternatively deselected) by a user as part of the Agent Monitoring System (AMS) process discussed below, is displayed. From here, selection and aggregation into classes proceeds, and input of trade secret attributes, type, date, value, etc. for later reports is set up, and permissions are assigned.

User classes are also created (via custom VB functions, or the like or equivalent as will be known to those skilled in the art, such as HTML and Java coding equivalents to VB). A network list of users is displayed, from which to select and aggregate into user classes, and permissions are assigned.

A rules comprises the identification of a trade secret with a user, (via custom VB functions, or the like, and the lists of trade secret classes and user classes from above are displayed and matched to create such rules. Permission assignment changes are permitted by authorized persons however.

Wrapper functions. A file name is received from the filter results function above. A check is made to see if the file name is located in a database of rules. If not, then all classes are checked. If still not located, then default rules are assumed. The file containing trade secret and view attributes is then encrypted, compressed, and zipped (if required), into a self-extracting exe called an .MMT (DataCloak) or other desired unique file extension, whereupon it is logged and sent to the requesting user.

Agent Monitoring System (AMS)

A PC sensor agent that performs monitoring of the trade secret based on the wrapper resides on each user machine. The wrapper and contents are decoded and given to the PC sensor agent monitor. In addition, disk activity and file activity on the PC are also monitored by a well known Filemon function, and keyboard activity is optionally monitored by a well known keyboard monitor function such as PCACME. Report of all monitored activities is sent to the TSS described below.

When the user clicks on a .MMT file, a File Viewer is automatically run that decrypts the file, asks for password, shows warning, etc first, and then runs a conventional file viewer such as that provided by Adobe. The file can be displayed,

printed or modified using Adobe, if Adobe is so configured on the system.. All such activities are logged as described above.

Using an otherwise conventional Explorer type interface, a user may use a Make Trade Secret function as add-on to Explorer and so add check marks to a list of files to be treated as trade secrets, as discussed above. Necessary TS attributes are optionally prompted for. The file and attributes are sent in a message to an IP manager. Trade secrets may be removed in a like but reciprocal manner, where one of the prompted attributes is a reason for removal.

Trade Secret System (TSS)

All logs from the above processes are collected for Accountability and Awarenes. For Accountability, there are provided optionally a File Access report (by user, file, date, type, class, activities), a User report (by activities, file, type, class), a Value report (by trade secret type, file, user, class), a PC Agent report (by user, file, action, class, activities), and an External Publications cross-reference report. For Awareness, users and management alike can view (or enter) IP Policies, cross referenced by file and class, and a Share Policies function makes policies available on the web, to induce and promote employee compliance. Appropriate users can also view/enter IP Contracts, cross referenced by file and class.

A Secrecy Manager is provided preferably in the form of an Internet agent looking on the web for key word references that are linked to listed trade secrets that reports back with listings of suspected TS usage (in a manner like Web Ferret).

A Security Manager interfaces with workspace security and with e-mail security and logs all external activities.

With respect to Figures 44-65, the drawings, containing as they do unusually large amounts of text compared to more conventional patent disclosures, constitute the preferred embodiment for carrying out the inventive intentions of this disclosure. It is presently believed that the means by which the various schemes herein disclosed, such as programming of web pages, back end databases, networking, internet programming, and the like are all well within the knowledge of those skilled in the computer and internet programming arts, and as such are not required to be recited in this disclosure.

In compliance with the statute, the invention has been described in language more or less specific as to structural features. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the specific features shown, since the means and

construction shown comprise preferred forms of putting the invention into effect. The invention is, therefore, claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the legitimate and valid scope of the appended claims, appropriately interpreted in accordance with the doctrine of equivalents.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for automatically summarizing company innovations, the system using intelligent agents to automatically perform searches on the Internet to find competing or encroaching ideas, the system generating reports which list potential competitive strengths or weaknesses.

2. A system for streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets, wherein the system identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis, and provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports, further wherein an employee has instant access to her latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them.

3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a query engine to determine and report some or all of the ideas that an individual has submitted over a selected time period.

4. The system of Claim 4 further wherein employee performance, overall corporate innovation levels, and qualified and motivated employees are measured and determined in accordance with the innovations entered by employees into the system.

5. The system of Claim 1 further wherein the employee enters hours spent, along with other resources that contributed to the innovation, so that IP assets can be assigned tangible values and tracked on the company's balance sheet.

6. The system of Claim 1 further wherein employees enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification therefor.

7. The system of Claim 6, further wherein the employee can link more details on each submission, and other users can email comments and suggestions directly to the author, or optionally submit their own improvements as a new or supplemental innovation.

8. A system for web based development and exploitation of IP, the system comprising:

a. an innovator attraction module;

b. a developer attraction module;

c. a registration module;

d. a match module;

whereby the registration module is adapted to accept and store dated related to an innovator and the innovator's innovation in an innovation database, and further whereby the match module is adapted to match a registered innovation and innovator with a developer having stated requirements and resources for development.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the database is operably stored for random retrieval on a storage medium.

10. The system of Claim 8, further wherein updates and changes to innovation related data are also stored in the innovation database.

11. The system of Claim 8, further wherein the match module is adapted to match one or more innovations with one or more developers.

12. The system of Claim 8, further comprising a tracking module, whereby any status or outcome of any matching activity related to the innovation is made available to a user.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein any status or outcome of any matching activity related to the innovation is also operably stored in a tracking database for later retrieval by a user.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein status or outcome of matching activity is fed for storage to the innovation database.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the innovation database and the tracking database are interoperably connected for data sharing.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein at least one module resides on a computing device.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein at least one different module resides on a different computing device, and the two computing devices are interconnected for data communication over an information network.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the information network is a global information network.

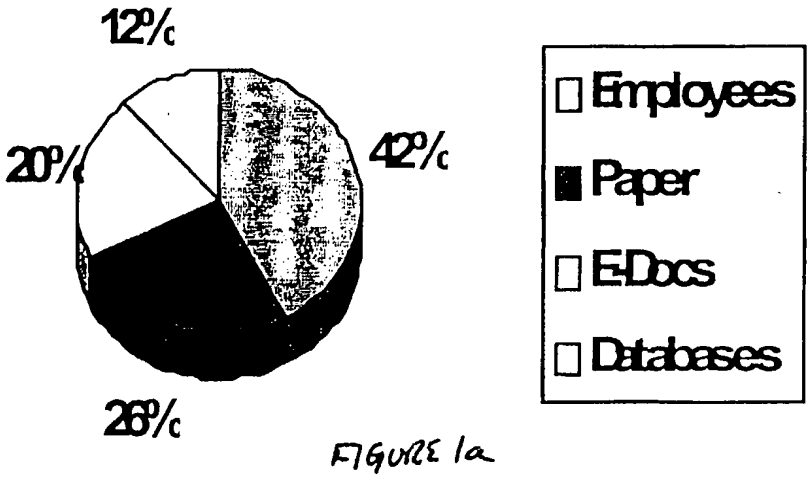


FIGURE 1a

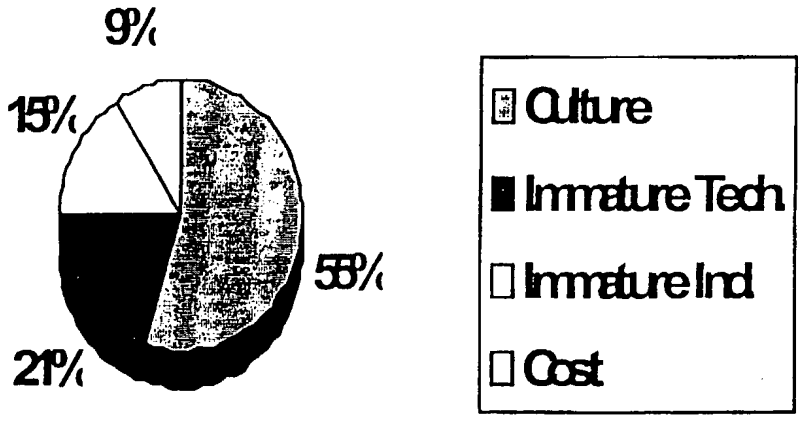
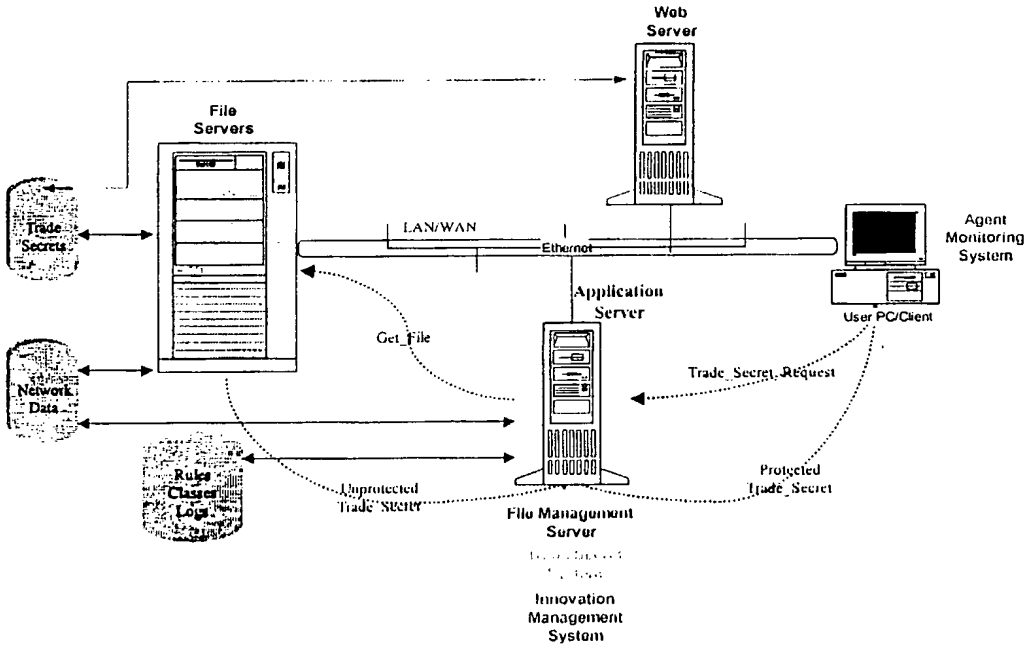


FIGURE 1b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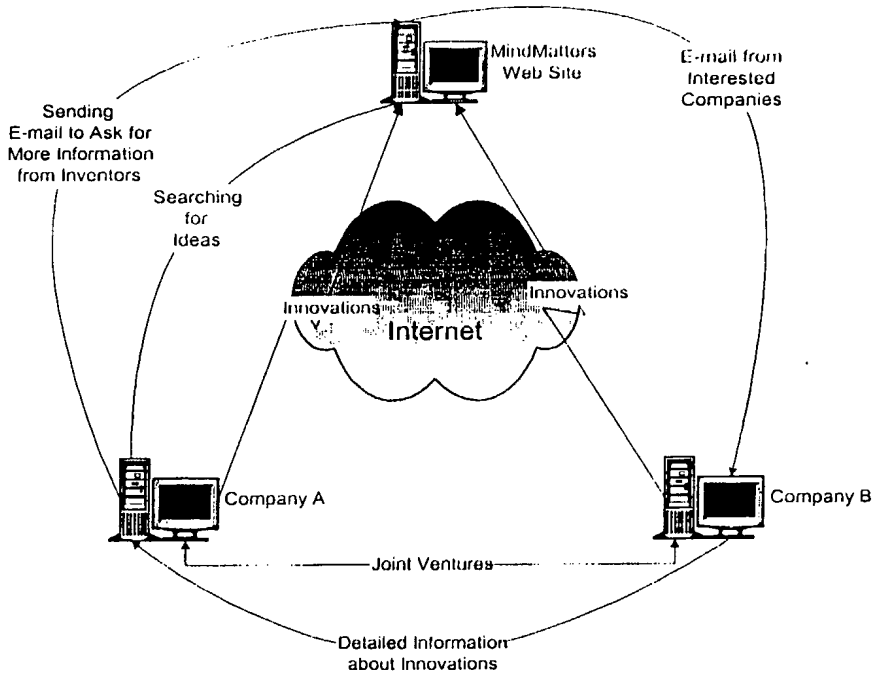
File Servers
Trade Secrets
LAN/WAN
Ethernet
Agent Monitoring System
Application Server
User PC/Client
Get_File
Trade_Secret_Request
Network Data
Rules Classes Logs
Unprotected Trade_Secret
Protected Trade_Secret
File Management Server
Innovation Management System

FIGURE 2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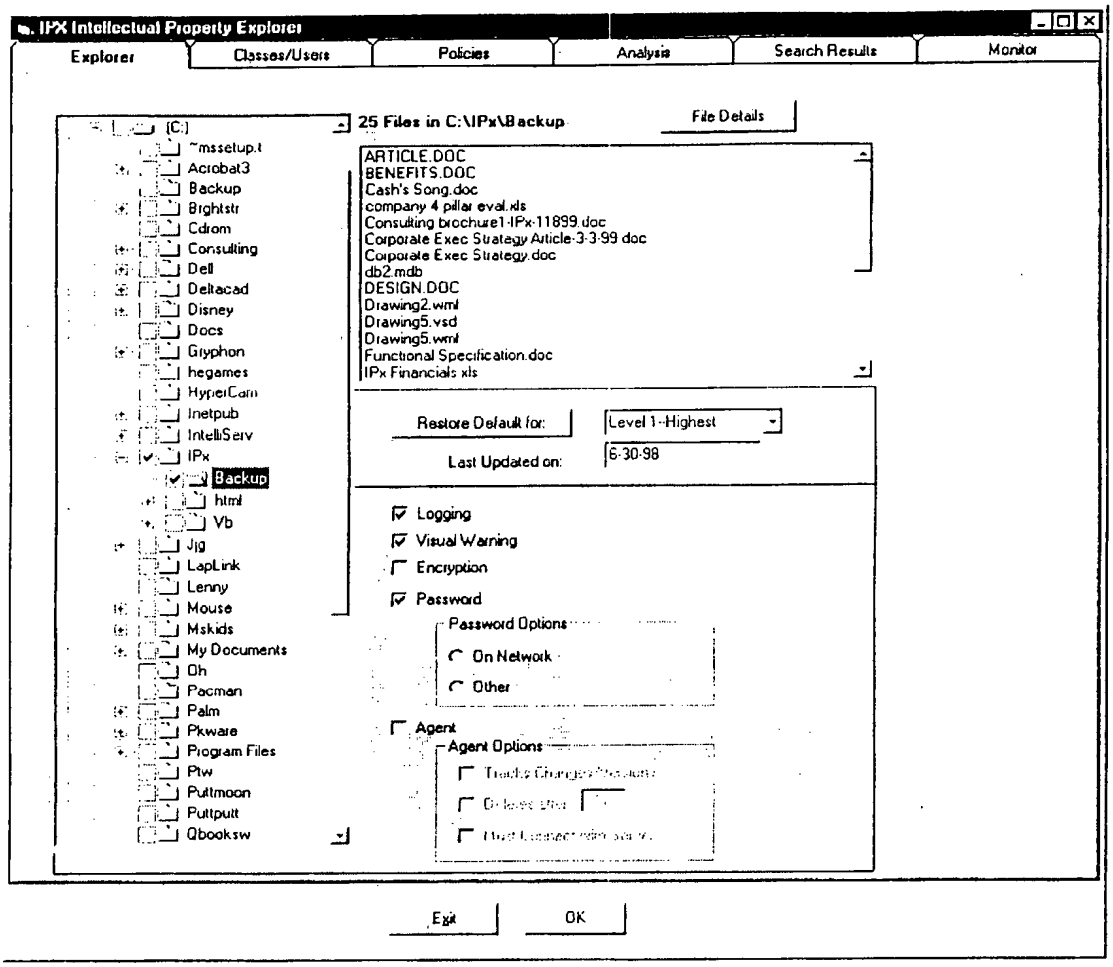
about Innovations

FIGURE 3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Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
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Acrobat3
Backup
Brightstr
Cdrom
Consulting
Dell
Deltacad
Disney
Docs
Gryphon
hegames
HyperCam
Inetpub
IntelliServ
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Vb
Jig
LapLink
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BENEFITS.DOC
Cash's Song.doc
company 4 pillar eval.xls
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Corporate Exec Strategy Article-3-3-99.doc
Corporate Exec Strategy.doc
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DESIGN.DOC
Drawing2.wmf
Drawing5.vsd
Drawing5.wmf
Functional Specification.doc
IPx Financials.xls
Restore Default for:
Level 1--Highest
Last Updated on:
6-30-98
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Encryption
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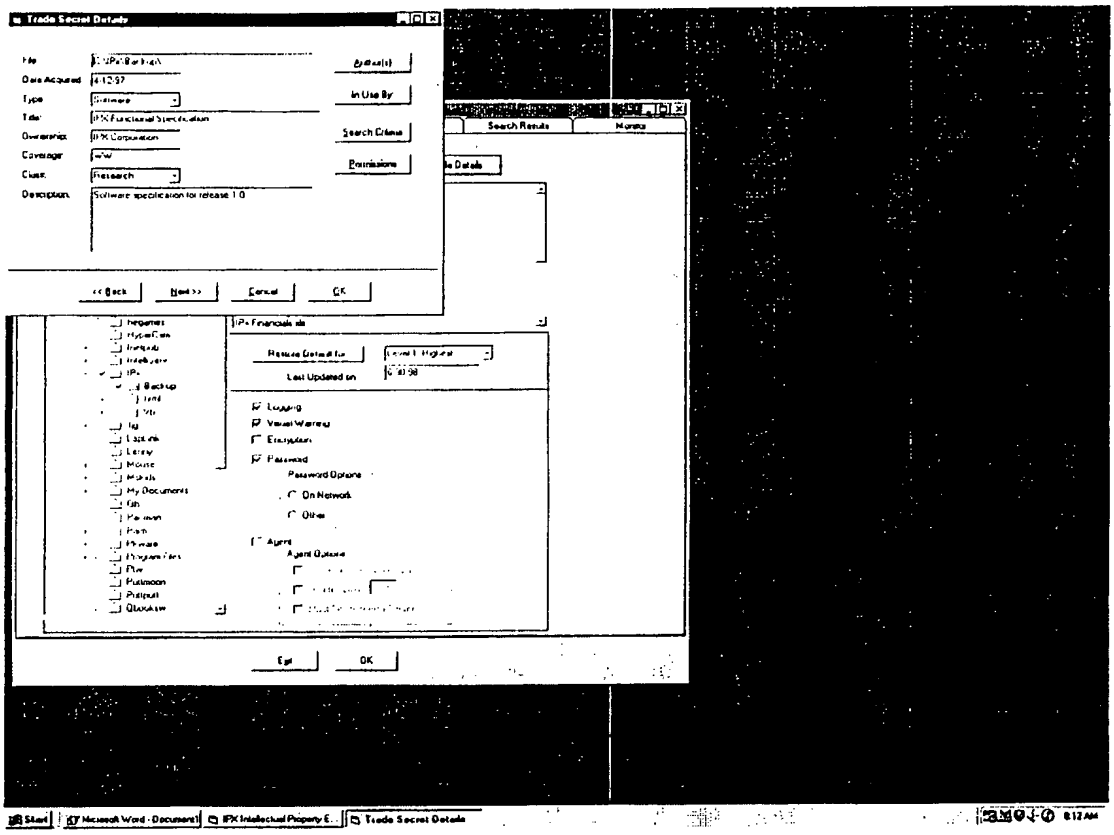
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Exit
OK

FIGURE 4a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Type
Title
Description
Software specification for release 1.0
In Use By
Search Criteria
Permissions
<< Back
Next >>
Cancel
OK
Search Results
Logging
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
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Agent Options
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Start
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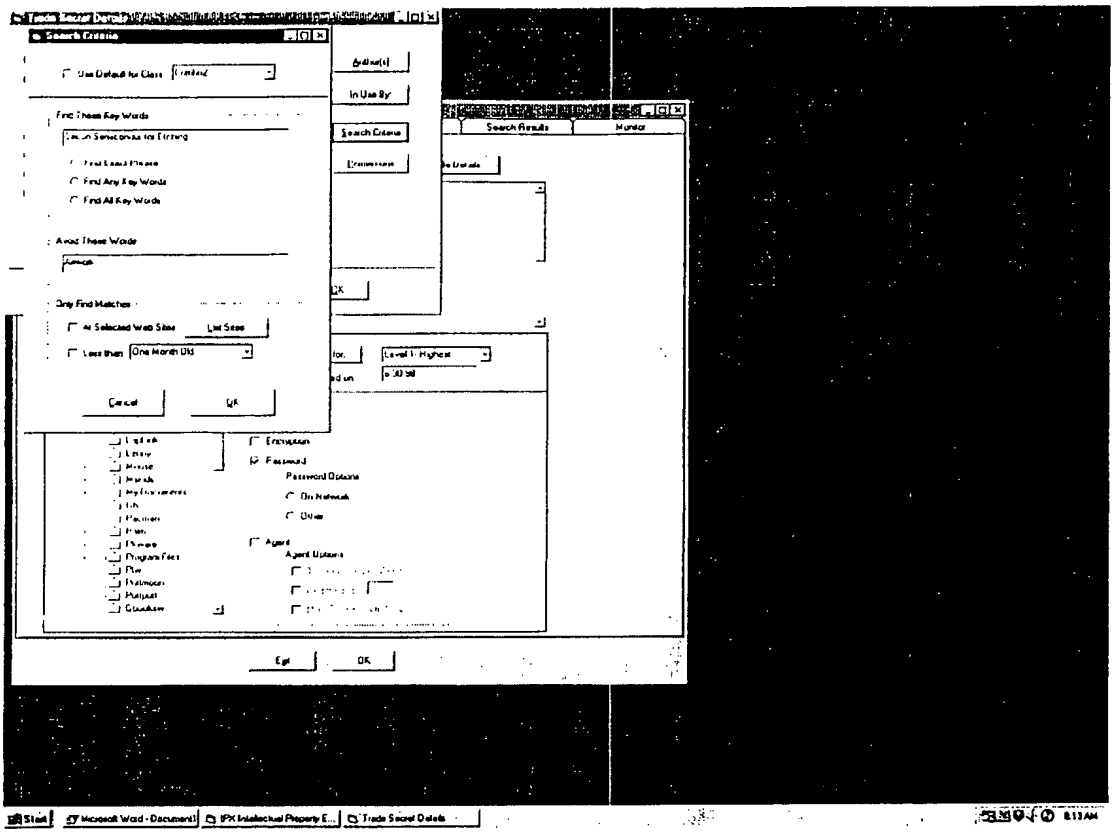
IPX Intellectual Property E...
Trade Secret Details
8:12 AM

FIGURE 4b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Find These Key Words
Find Any Key Words
Find All Key Words
Avoid These Words
Only Find Matches
Cancel
OK
Search Results
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Encryption
Password
Password Options
Agent
Agent Options
Exit
OK
Start
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FIGURE 4c

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Neural Network Optical Driver	C:\MMT_private	Smith, Jones, Gabrick		11/29/99	Yes	11/29/99	Hardware	Executive Only
Software System For AI Internet Searching	\\Bellevue\C\ProjectX	Orlowski		8/2/98		8/2/98	Software	All Employees
HTML Authoring Tools	C:\IPX\Plans\Test	N.A.		6/30/95	Yes	6/30/95	Software	Department Only
NE126 Product Improvements	C:\Java\NE126	N.A.		5/28/93		5/28/93	Improvement	Department Only
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	\\Allegheny\D\Robots	Elston		1/11/92	Yes 5 Results	1/11/92	New	All Employees
Software System For AI Internet Searching	\\Bellevue\C\ProjectX	Orlowski		8/2/98		8/2/98	Software	All Employees
Neural Network Optical Driver	C:\MMT_private	Smith, Jones, Gabrick		11/29/99	Yes	11/29/99	Hardware	Executive Only
HTML Authoring Tools	C:\IPX\Plans\Test	N.A.		6/30/95	Yes, 2 Results	6/30/95	Software	Department Only
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	\\Allegheny\D\Robots	Elston		1/11/92	Yes	1/11/92	New	All Employees

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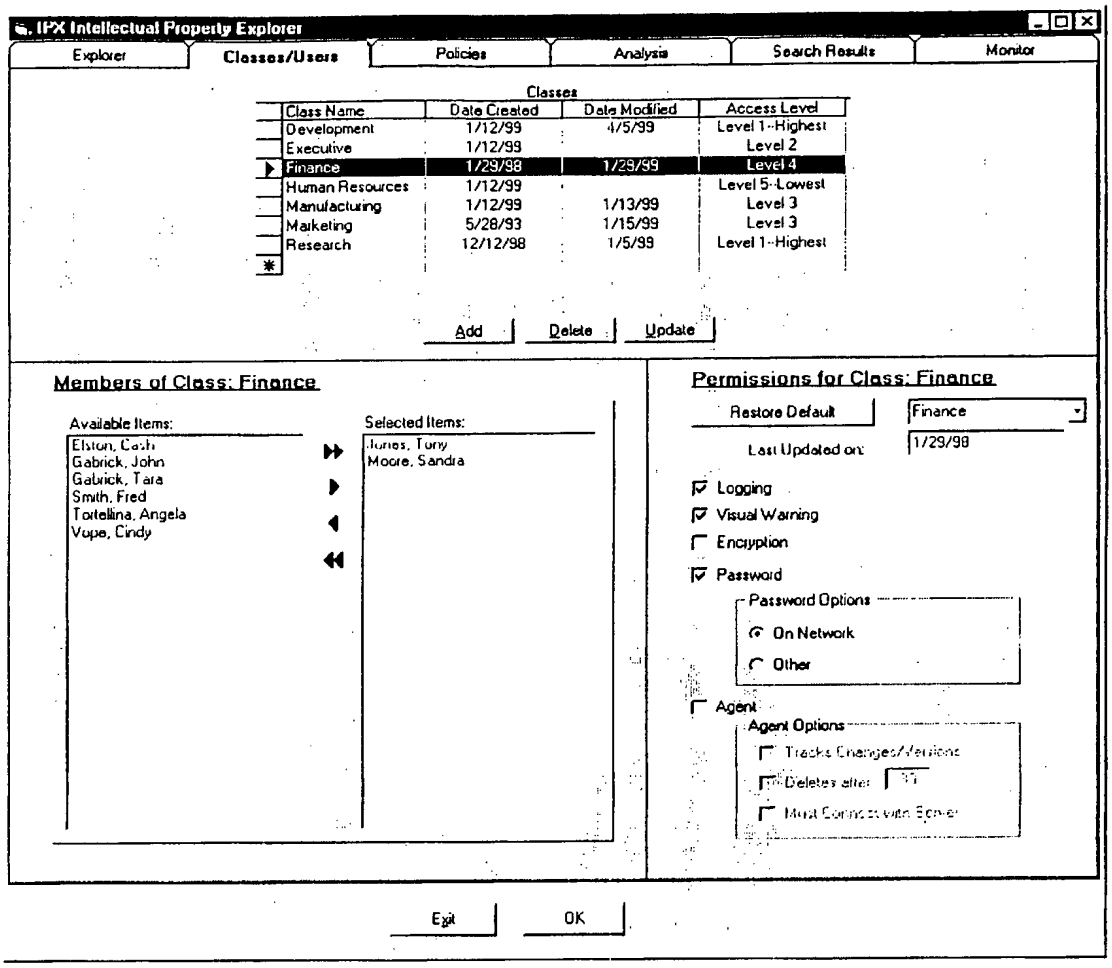
Figure 4d

WO 01/35277
7/96
PCT/US00/30868


IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Classes
Class Name
Date Created
Date Modified
Access Level
Development 1/12/99 4/5/99 Level 1--Highest
Executive 1/12/99 Level 2
Finance 1/29/98 1/29/99 Level 4
Human Resources 1/12/99 Level 5--Lowest
Manufacturing 1/12/99 1/13/99 Level 3
Marketing 5/28/93 1/15/99 Level 3
Research 12/12/98 1/5/99 Level 1--Highest
Add
Delete
Update
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Available Items:
Elston, Cash
Gabrick, John
Gabrick, Tara
Smith, Fred
Tortellina, Angela
Vupe, Cindy
Selected Items:
Jones, Tony
Moore, Sandra
Permissions for Class: Finance
Restore Default
Finance
Last Updated on:
1/29/98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Tracks Changes/Versions
Deletes after
Must Connect with Server
Exit
OK

FIGURE 5a

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Smith, John

SS#	Hire Date	Title	E-Mail	Location	Dept.	ID#	Manager
123-45-6789	6-30-1995	Mgr, Development	Smith@mmt.com	Pittsburgh	5600	IA8592	Gerstner

Innovations

Title	Status	Date
Neural Network Optical Driver	◢	3-2-00
Software System For AI Internet Searching	●	1-3-98
HTML Authoring Tools	◢	8-19-96
NE126 Product Improvements	◢	6-12-96
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	◕	11-5-95

Exit Interview Checklist

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- Remind of Continuing Obligations ☐
- New Employment, Competitive Assessment ☐
- Review Proprietary Access Log ☐
- Compliance Sign-off ☐ FormR4.99

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Beta 391 Beta 646 Beta 989 Beta 877
X15

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3. Class 1 Trade Secret Accessed	3/17/99
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8. Provisional Patent Access...	6/30/99

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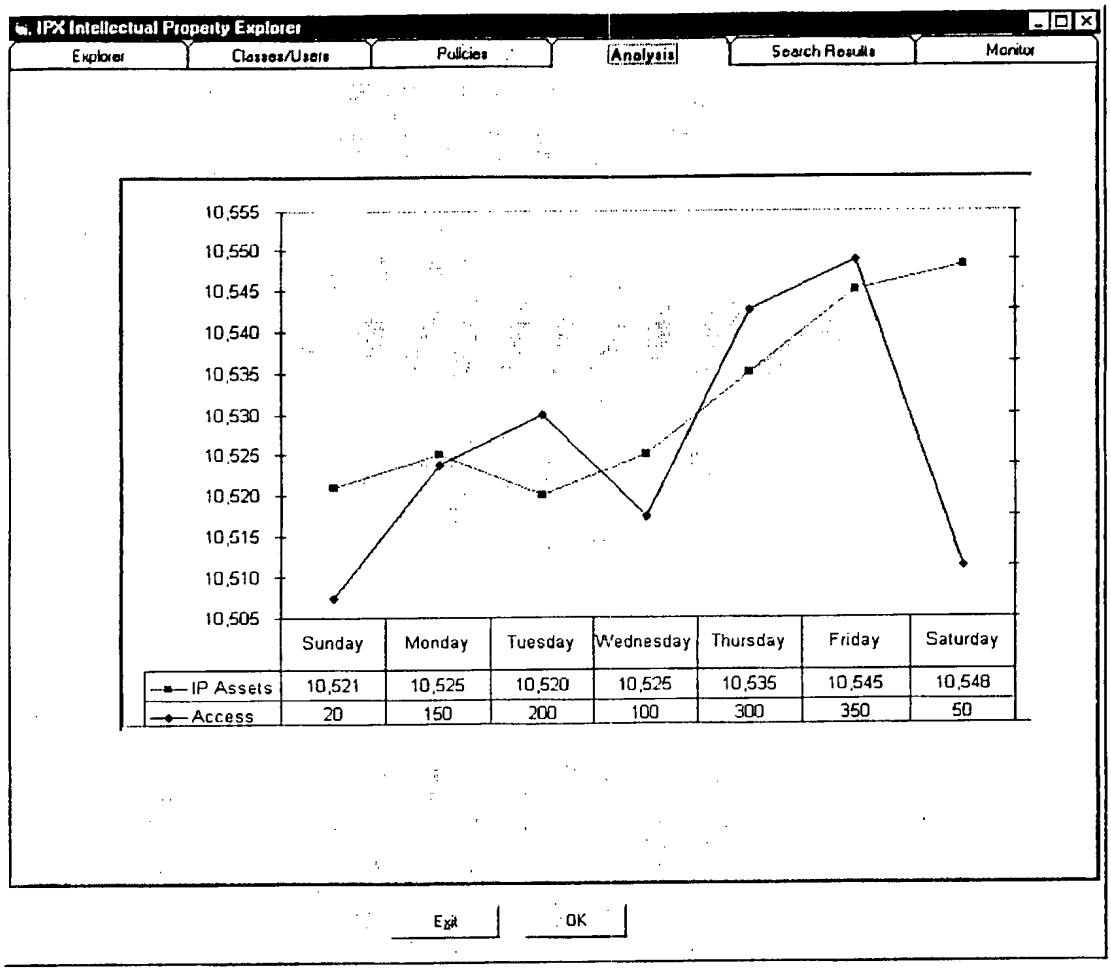
Figure 5b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Search Results
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Access
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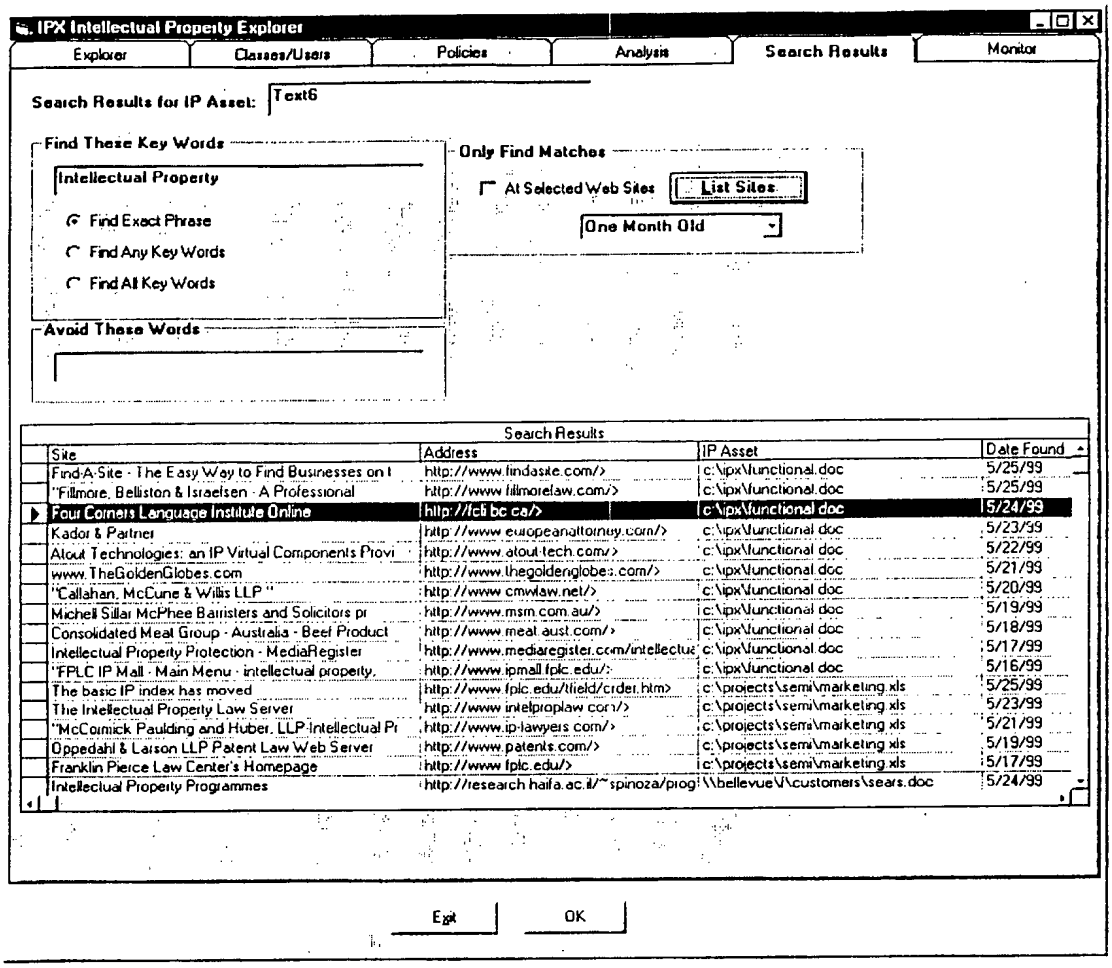
FIGURE 6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Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Search Results for IP Asset: Text6
Find These Key Words
Intellectual Property
Find Exact Phrase
Find Any Key Words
Find All Key Words
Avoid These Words
Only Find Matches
At Selected Web Sites
List Sites
One Month Old
Search Results
Site
Address
IP Asset
Date Found
Find-A-Site - The Easy Way to Find Businesses on t
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c:\ipx\functional.doc
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Exit
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FIGURE 7a

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Figure 7b

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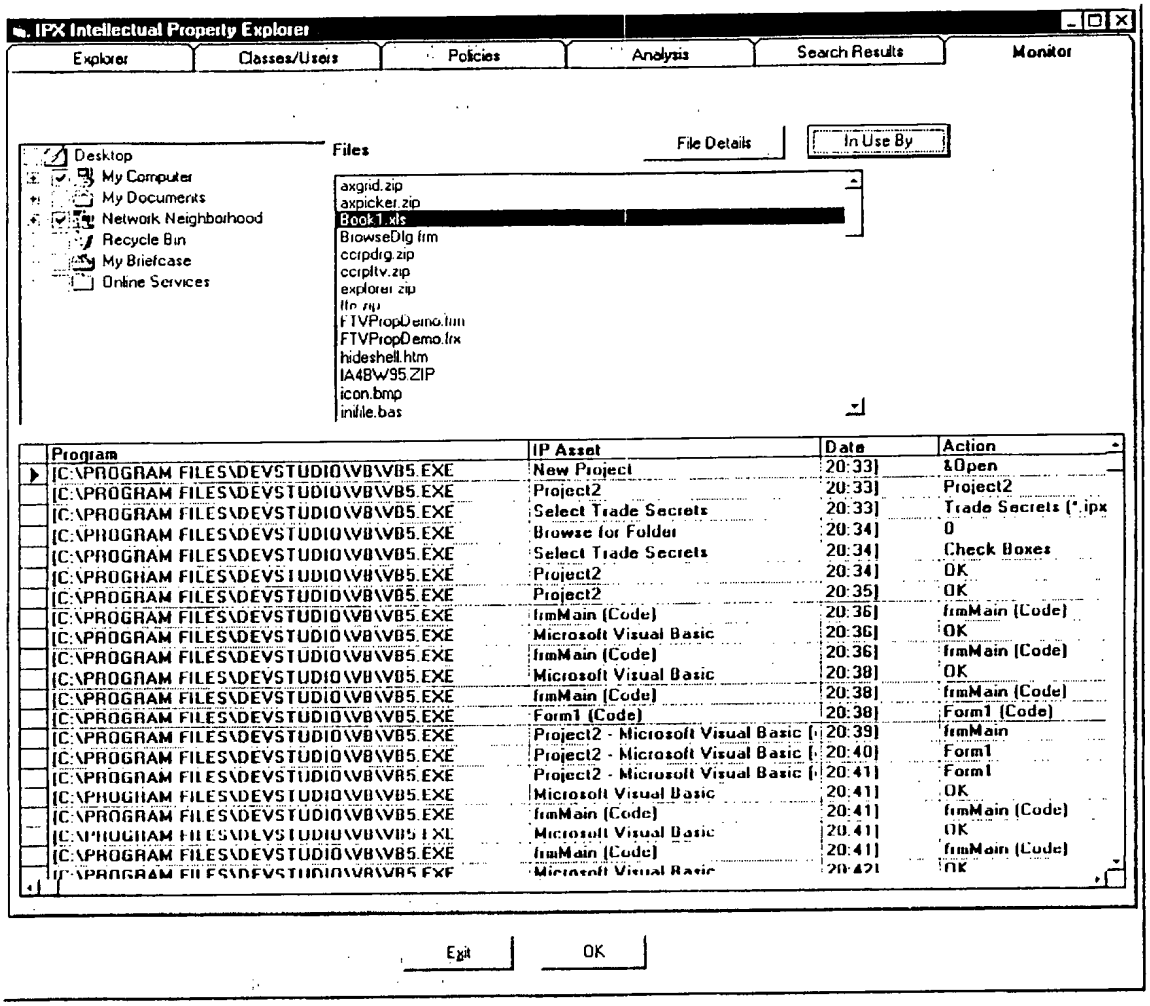
6-1-99	Sun Microsystems		
11-29-98	Alcoa		
5-12-97	Microsoft–Operating Systems Group		
1-11-92	Microsoft–Operating Systems Group		
10-15-90	Procter & Gamble		
8-6-89	Terabeam		
4-31-89	Lucent–Telcommunications Division		

Figure 7e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axgrid.zip
axpicker.zip
Book1.xls
BrowseDlg.frm
ccrpdrg.zip
ccrpltv.zip
explorer.zip
ftp.zip
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FTVPropDemo.frx
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IA4BW95.ZIP
icon.bmp
initile.bas
Program
IP Asset
Date
Action
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New Project
20:33]
&Open
Project2
Select Trade Secrets
Trade Secrets (*.ipx
Browse for Folder
0
Select Trade Secrets
Check Boxes
OK
frmMain (Code)
Microsoft Visual Basic
Form1 (Code)
Project2 - Microsoft Visual Basic
Form1
Exit
OK

FIGURE 8a

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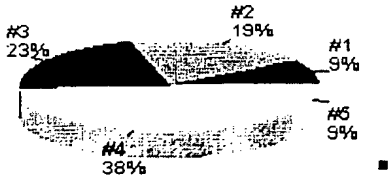
	Search Term	Who	Date
1.	Software Intelligence	124.34.5.113 View Results | Delete	1-13-00
2.	Internet Searching	124.34.5.120 View Results | Delete	2-4-00
3.	Neural Network	124.34.5.126 View Results | Delete	2-4-00

File Cabinet Hits (Internal)

	Title	Hits
1.	Software System For AI Internet Searching	0
2.	NE126 Product Improvements	1
3.	Biometric Nanocircuit	0
4.	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	1
5.	Browser Search Agent	0



Collaboration Agents

	Title	Posted	Hits
1.	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	11-29-99	5
2.	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	1-2-00	1

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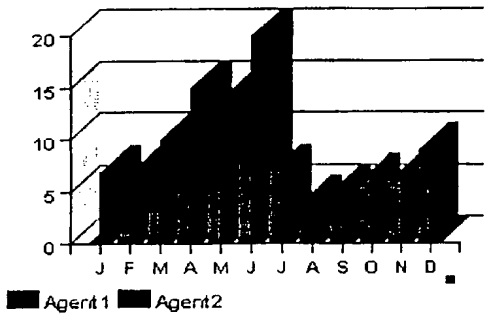

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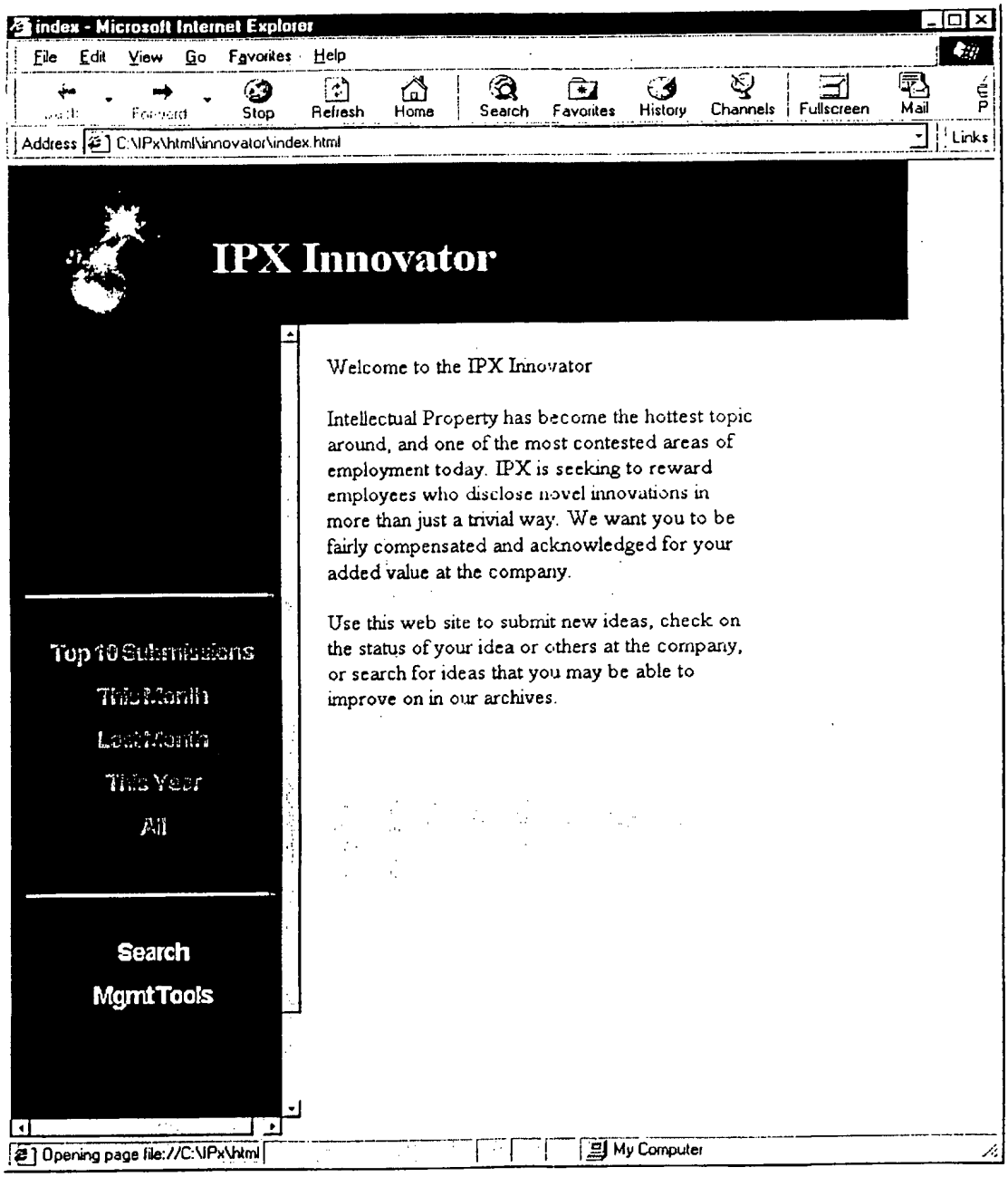
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FIGURE 9a

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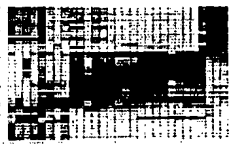
2. Tim Balushi, *Software Optimization for CNC Drives*
3. Martha Jones, *Robotic Force Feedback*
4. Julie Selleck, *IP Accounting System*
5. John Smith, *Neural Network Optical Driver*
6. Tim Balushi, *Software Optimization for CNC Drives*
7. Martha Jones, *Robotic Force Feedback*
8. Julie Sun, *IP Accounting System*
9. Carole Williams, *New Grammy Hit*
10. Martha Jones, *E-Commerce One-Click Click System*

Spotlight



NEW

Susan Jones, Bryan Beem, and John Wayne's Voice Recognition for Embedded Systems As consumer products get more and more complex, there is a need for an easier means of interaction with these complex machines. One way to make interaction smoother is by allowing interaction through natural language. More...

New Analysis Request!!

File Cabinet edit — ×

Search: Sort: Date Filter: Neural

Date	Title	Status	Search
3-12-00	Neural Network Optical Driver		
6-1-99	Software System For AI Internet Searching		
11-29-98	HTML Authoring Tools		
5-12-97	NE126 Product Improvements		
1-11-92	Robotic Force Feedback Sensor		
10-15-90	Biometric Nanocircuit		
8-6-89	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides		
4-31-89	Browser Search Agent		

Collaboration Agents edit — ×

Date	Title	Status
3-12-00	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	
6-1-99	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	

Performance Ratings edit — ×

All New By Category Details By Department By Location More...

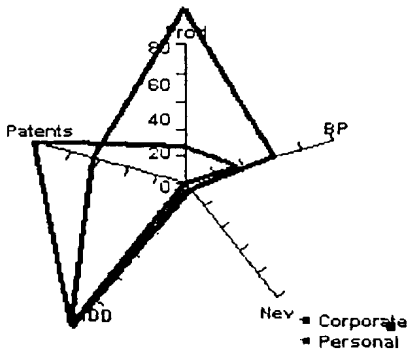


Figure 9b

Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

Education Center edit _ ×

124 articles

What is a Trade Secret? *Is that new java applet you're writing a company trade secret, you may be surprised to find out it is!, Cassius Jones*, MMT IP Counsel

Employee Rights *Who Owns Your Ideas?, Bailey, F.*

Is it a Patent? *New focus on software patents for the company, Cassius Elston*, MMT IP Counsel

Pepsico vs. Gatorade? *Sometimes the law doesn't make sense. Find out what happened and be informed. J. Gabrick*, MMT IP Counsel

Evaluation Committee Guidelines *Review Committee, 6-22-00*

More Articles...

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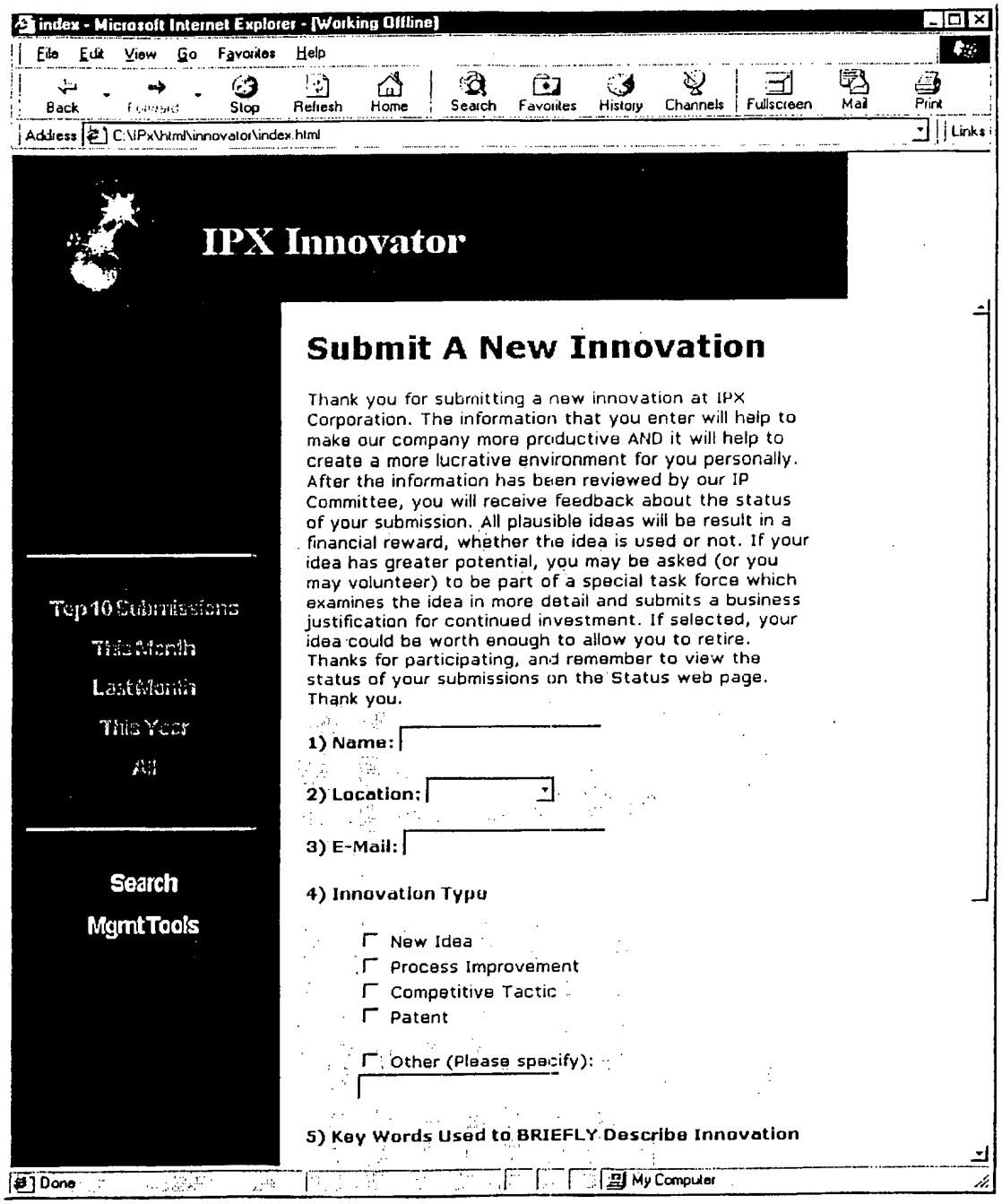
index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Submit A New Innovation
Thank you for submitting a new innovation at IPX Corporation. The information that you enter will help to make our company more productive AND it will help to create a more lucrative environment for you personally. After the information has been reviewed by our IP Committee, you will receive feedback about the status of your submission. All plausible ideas will be result in a financial reward, whether the idea is used or not. If your idea has greater potential, you may be asked (or you may volunteer) to be part of a special task force which examines the idea in more detail and submits a business justification for continued investment. If selected, your idea could be worth enough to allow you to retire. Thanks for participating, and remember to view the status of your submissions on the Status web page. Thank you.
1) Name:
2) Location:
3) E-Mail:
4) Innovation Type
New Idea
Process Improvement
Competitive Tactic
Patent
Other (Please specify):
5) Key Words Used to BRIEFLY Describe Innovation
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Done
My Computer

FIGURE 10a

Innovator

MindMatters

- Member Evaluation Board 2000
- Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
- Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

Submit Innovation

Explorer

- Byte-Sized Computing
- Please Register...
- Desktop

Inventor(s) Information

	Name	Location	Dept.	ID#	Manager
Contributor 1	*John Gabrick*	*Pittsburgh*	*5600*	*1A8592*	*Gerstner*
Contributor 2	*Cash Elston*	*Redmond*	*5600*	*1A5623*	*Welch*
Sponsor	*Tom Jones*	*Seattle*	*8700*	*9A7612*	*Smith*

Lookup

Innovation Information

Innovation Name: Neural Network Optical Driver

Innovation Type: Business-to-Business

Supporting Electronic Documents: C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc

Supporting Paper Documents: Title; Date; Type; Location

Generate Barcode

Description: This system automatically updates and adjusts to changes in ambient light. Users are able to build robotic guidance systems that adapt to any lighting scheme

Key Words: Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance

Protection Information

Route to Corporate Counsel? ☐ yes

Potential Trade Secret? ☐ yes

Initial Protection Level: Department Only

Warning Message

Encryption ☐ yes

Figure 10b

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Submit Idea | Clear all answers

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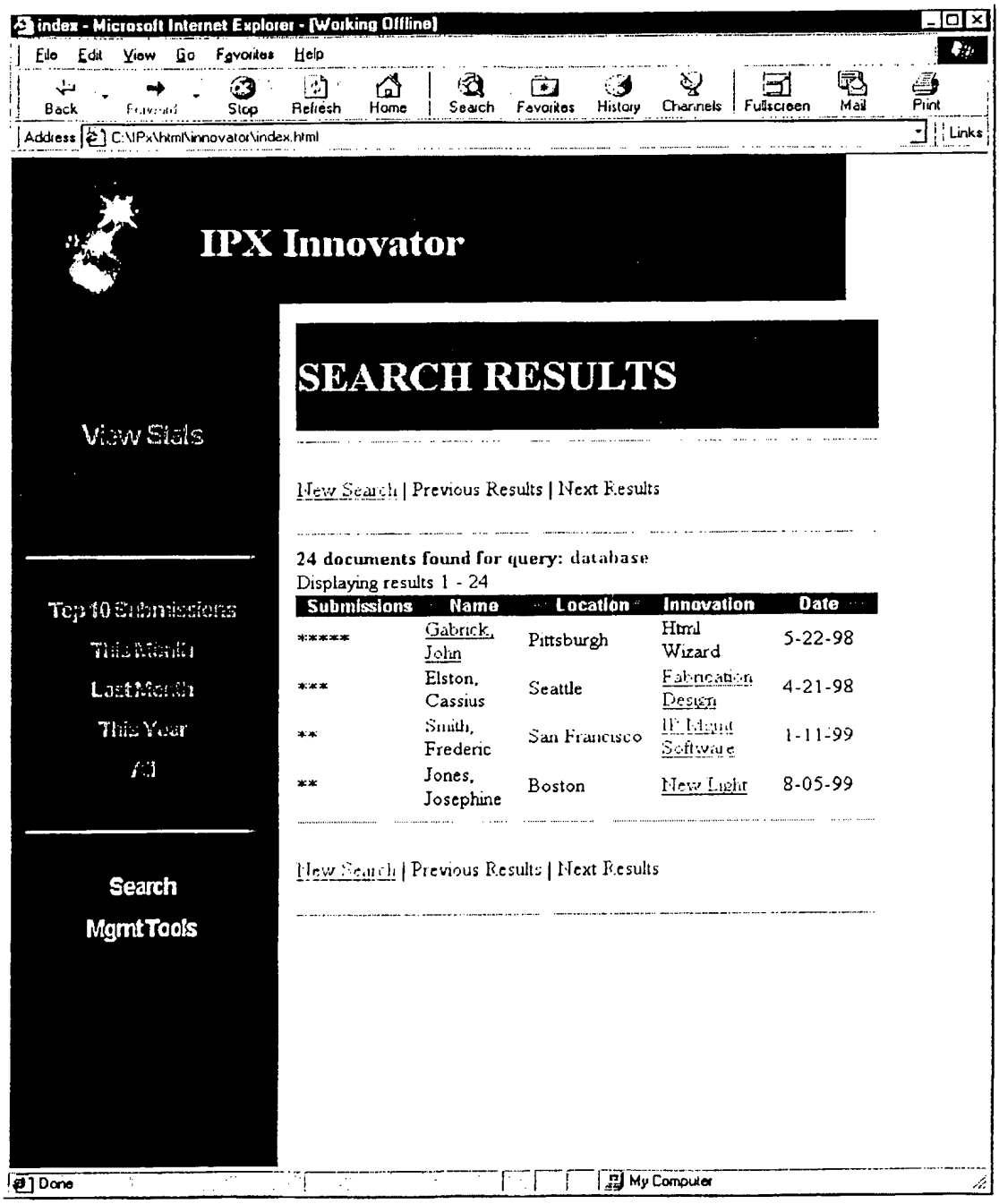
index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
SEARCH RESULTS
View Stats
New Search | Previous Results | Next Results
24 documents found for query: database
Displaying results 1 - 24
Submissions Name Location Innovation Date
***** Gabrick, John Pittsburgh Html Wizard 5-22-98
*** Elston, Cassius Seattle Fabrication Design 4-21-98
** Smith, Frederic San Francisco IP Island Software 1-11-99
** Jones, Josephine Boston New Light 8-05-99
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Done
My Computer

FIGURE 11a

Search Results

Rank	Status	Information	Location	Details	Date
99%	External	New Neural Network Optical Driver in use by Ariva's	http://www.ariva.com/test.html	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
98%	Internal	Network Optical Drivers	\\bellevue\ServerA_1\\C:\NOD	Corbis, John Mgr., PVc Development 412-388-1221 smith@us-mmt.com	5/25/00
98%	External	The Intellectual Property Site	http://www.gm.com	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
98%	External	Oppedahl & Larson LLP Patent Law Web Server	http://www.patents.com	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
70%	External	Franklin Pierce Law Center's Homepage	http://www.fplc.edu	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
68%	Internal	Intellectual Property Law	\\bellevue\f\customers\eagle.doc	Jones, Cash Dir., Strategy 412-388-8254 jones@ip-mmt.com	5/25/00
65%	External	Intellectual Property Checklist	http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
65%	External	IBM Intellectual Property Network	http://www.patents.ibm.com		5/25/00
50%	External	Intellectual Property	http://www.intellectual-property.co.uk		5/25/00
50%	External	Intellectual Property Valuations, Inc.Intellectual Property Valuation ...	http://valuationcorp.com		5/25/00

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Figure 11b

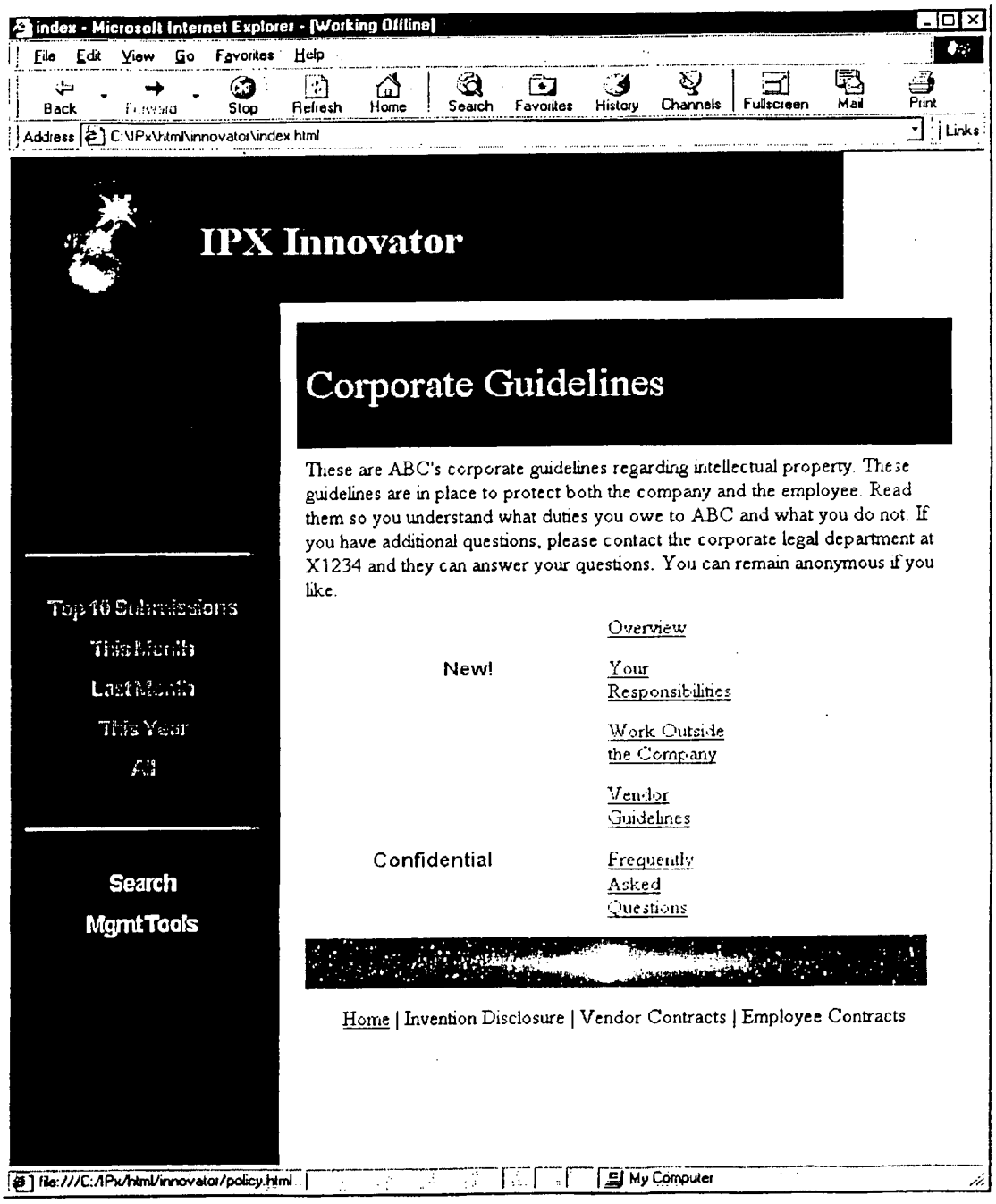

index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Corporate Guidelines
These are ABC's corporate guidelines regarding intellectual property. These guidelines are in place to protect both the company and the employee. Read them so you understand what duties you owe to ABC and what you do not. If you have additional questions, please contact the corporate legal department at X1234 and they can answer your questions. You can remain anonymous if you like.
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Overview
New!
Your Responsibilities
Work Outside the Company
Vendor Guidelines
Confidential
Frequently Asked Questions
Home | Invention Disclosure | Vendor Contracts | Employee Contracts
file:///C:/IPx/html/innovator/policy.html
My Computer

FIGURE 12

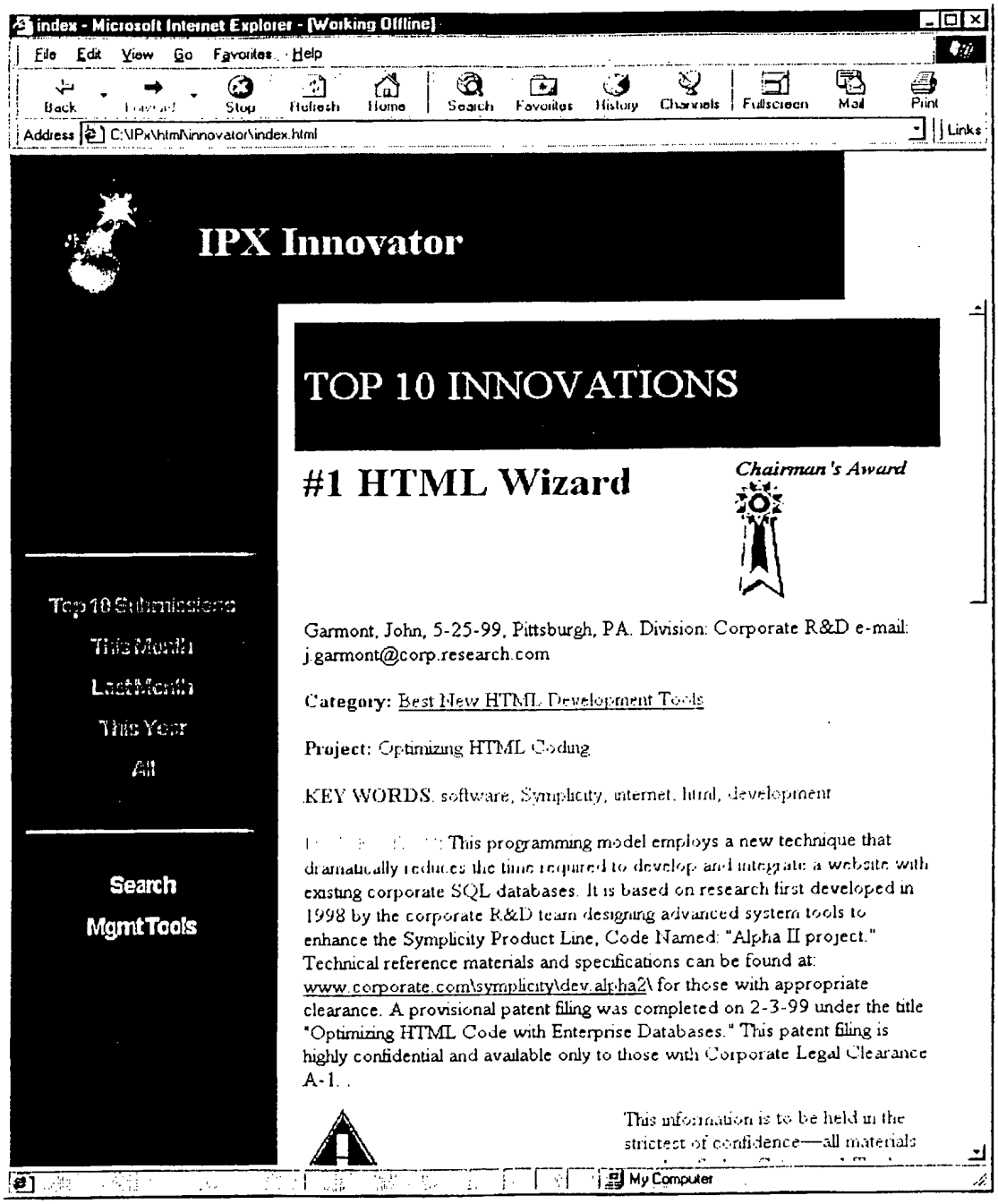
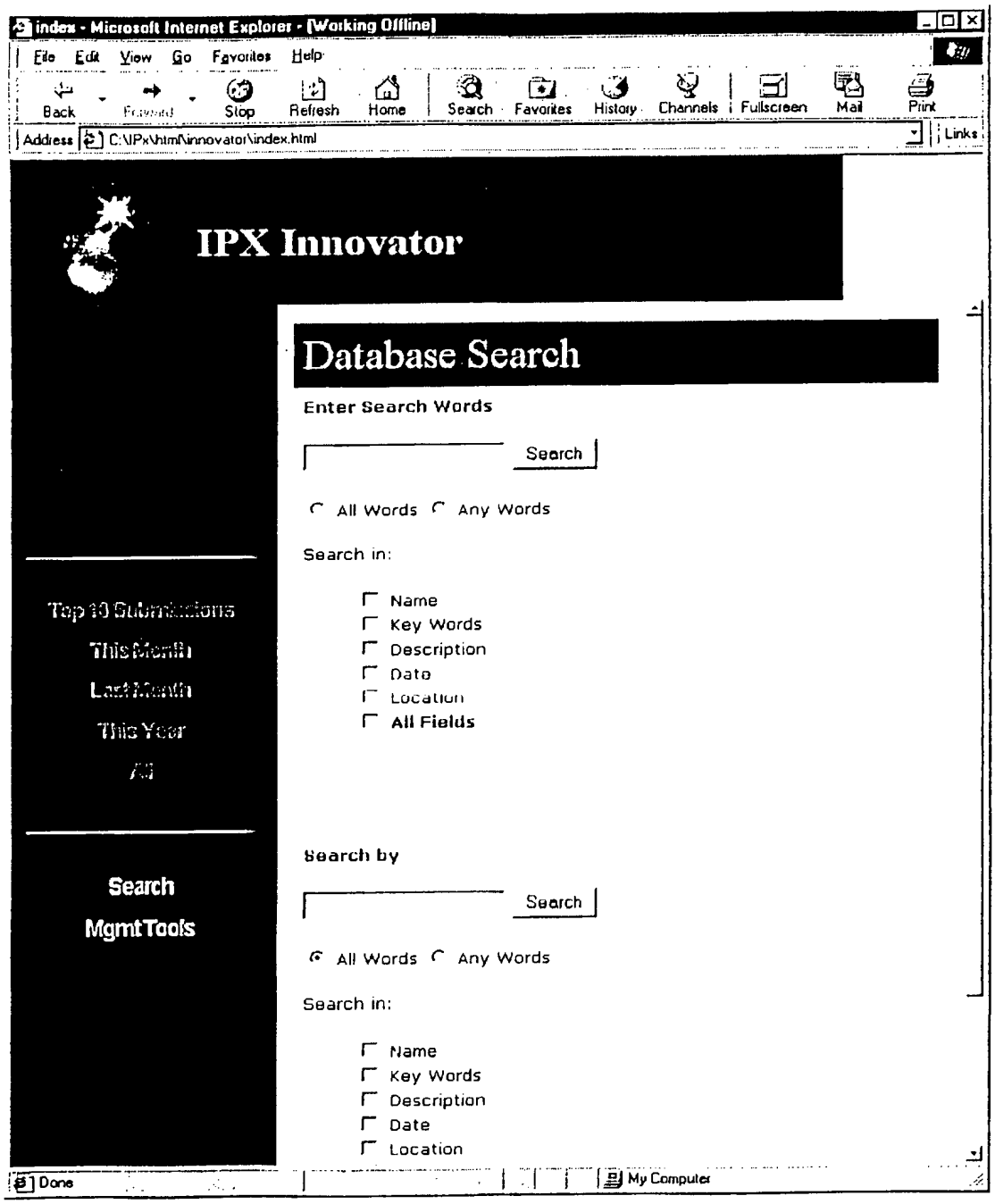

index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
TOP 10 INNOVATIONS
#1 HTML Wizard
Chairman's Award
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Garmont, John, 5-25-99, Pittsburgh, PA. Division: Corporate R&D e-mail: j.garmont@corp.research.com
Category: Best New HTML Development Tools
Project: Optimizing HTML Coding
KEY WORDS: software, Symplicity, internet, html, development
This programming model employs a new technique that dramatically reduces the time required to develop and integrate a website with existing corporate SQL databases. It is based on research first developed in 1998 by the corporate R&D team designing advanced system tools to enhance the Symplicity Product Line, Code Named: "Alpha II project." Technical reference materials and specifications can be found at: www.corporate.com\symplicity\dev.alpha2\ for those with appropriate clearance. A provisional patent filing was completed on 2-3-99 under the title "Optimizing HTML Code with Enterprise Databases." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1.
This information is to be held in the strictest of confidence—all materials
My Computer

FIGURE 13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Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Database Search
Enter Search Words
Search
All Words Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
MgmtTools
Search by
Search
All Words Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
Done
My Computer

FIGURE 14a

MindMatters

J hn's Innovator Page Choose a r... java plugin!! »
★★ MEMBER EVALUATION BOARD
★ DISTINGUISHED PATENT FELLOW 1998
Home Page · Edit · Help

Innovation Database Search

Key Word(s)

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

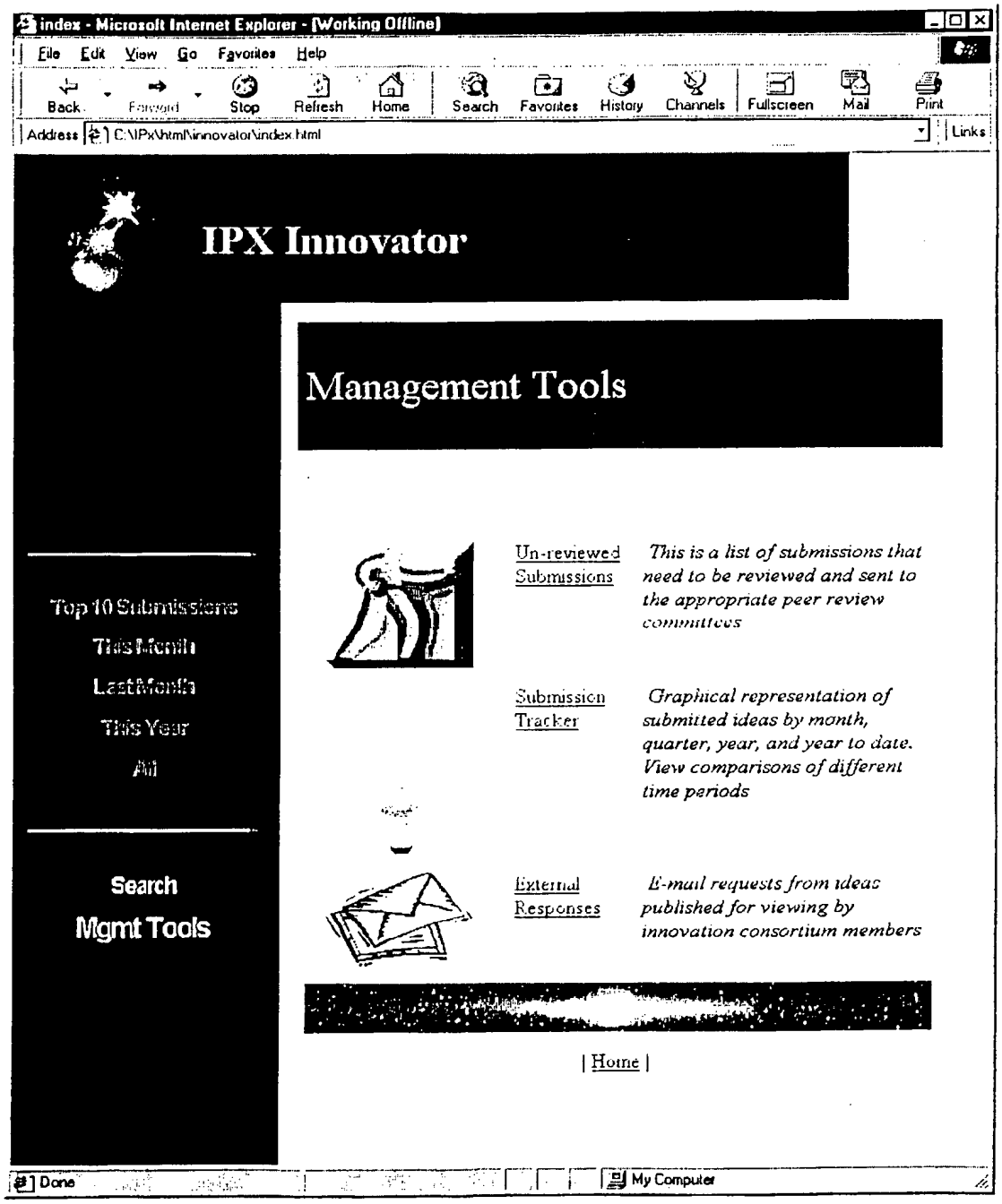
Search Parameters

Results MUST NOT contain | the phrase

Results SHOULD contain | the phrase

Start Search | Reset

FIGURE 14b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File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Management Tools
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Un-reviewed Submissions
This is a list of submissions that need to be reviewed and sent to the appropriate peer review committees
Submission Tracker
Graphical representation of submitted ideas by month, quarter, year, and year to date. View comparisons of different time periods
External Responses
E-mail requests from ideas published for viewing by innovation consortium members
| Home |
Done
My Computer

FIGURE 15a

MindMatters

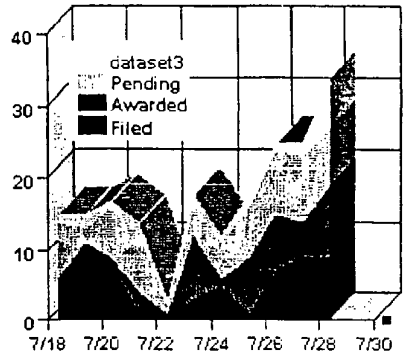
Innovator Division Overview

Home Page · Edit · Help

Patent Filings Rate

edit

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

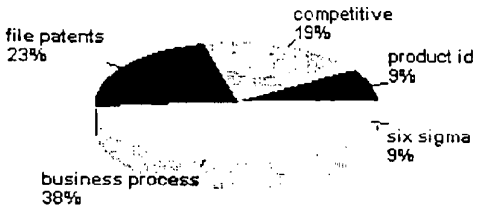


Category	YTD Total
Filed Patents	82
Awarded Patents	103
Pending Patents	56
Expiring Patents	12
Invention Disclosures	226

Corporate Performance

edit

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

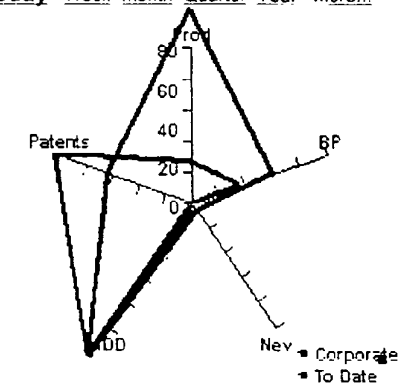


Innovation Category	YTD Total
New Products	21
Patents	103
Business Process Improvements	55
Six Sigma	61
Competitive	84

Strategic Goals

edit

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...



Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

New Product Submissions

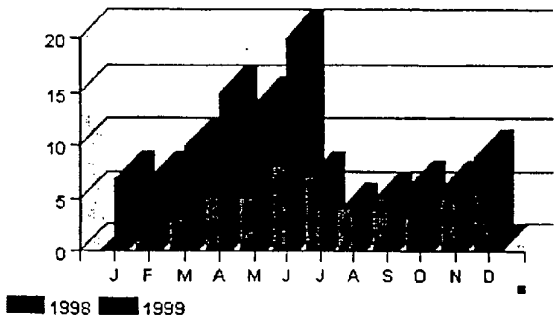
edit

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

Title	Authors	?	Rank
Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31%

Innovation Performance

edit

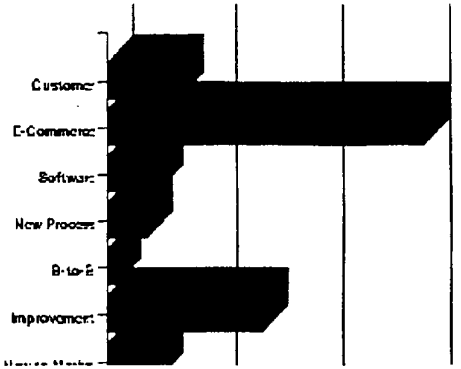


Innovation Category	YTD Total
Invention Disclosures	2156

Top Licensing Revenue

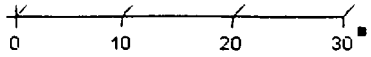
edit

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...



Figures 15b

Budgeted Innovations	55
Closed Innovations	489
Rejected Innovations	1349



Departments edit – ×

Seattle, WA

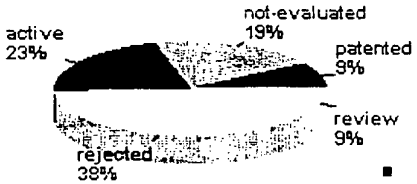
Marketing Sales WSA International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate More

Pittsburgh, PA

Sales International Finance Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

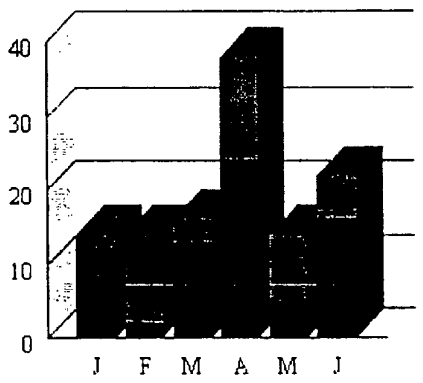
London, England

International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More



Corporate Performance edit – ×

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...



Title	Authors	?	Rank
1. Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
2. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
3. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
4. NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
5. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
6. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
7. Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
8. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
9. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31%

Status

MindMatters

★ Member Evaluation Board 2000
★ Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
★ Peer Review Board 1999

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Valuation Points

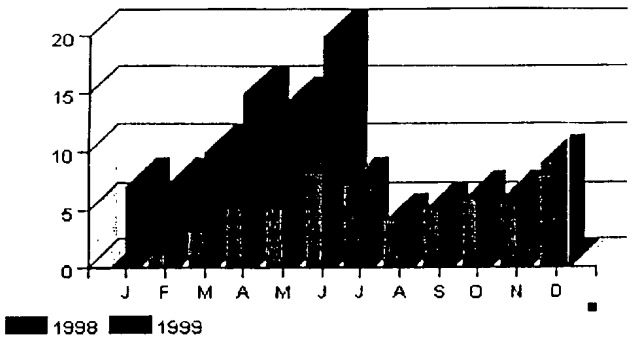
Chart Total Month Week Day Department Location

	Critieria	Result	Company	%	Rank	Pts
1.	Personal Home Page Hits	103	125,119	7.1%	Top 10	52
2.	File Cabinet Hits	56	204,532	7.0%	Top 50	5
3.	Collaboration Agent Hits	12	23,221	7.0%	Top 50	12
4.	Citations	5	3,206	7.2%	Top 10	60
5.	Submissions	20	8,018	7.3%	Top 25	20
6.	Analysis Performed	25	36,112	7.1%	Top 25	50
7.	NDA Citations	1	58	1.7%	Top 10	50
8.	Downloads	6	7,863	0.1%		12
9.	Internet Publications	0	98	0.0%		0
10.	Licenses	1	12	3.3%	Top 10	500
11.	Accepted Innovations	8	400	2.0%	Top 50	80
12.	Patents	2	52	3.8%	#1	2000
	TOTAL					**2841**

Performance

Portfolio Performance edit

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...



Company Goals edit

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

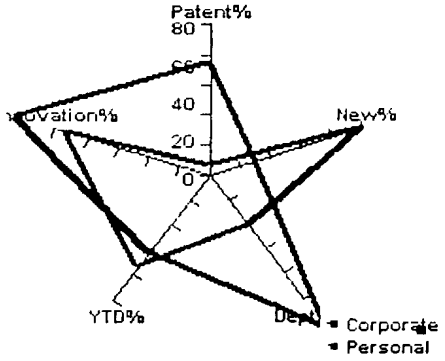


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FIGURE 15c

MindMatters

Innovator Executive Overview

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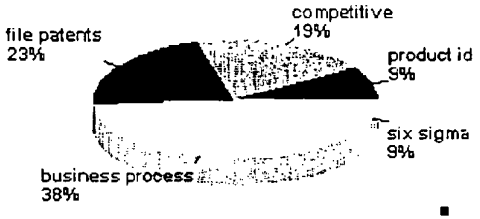
Table of Contents

Corporate Performance edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...



Innovation Category	YTD Total
New Products	21
Patents	103
Invention Disclosures	55
Active Projects	61
R&D Headcount	84

Historical Performance edit – ×

Metric	#	%V	5 Yr. Avg.
Total Patents Awarded	18	30	23
Total Patents Filed	43	53	34
Total Patents Pending	64	24	4[illegible]
Total Invention Disclosures	76	55	4[illegible]
Total Licensing Revenues ($MM)	10.5	33	14
Total Innovation Submissions	377	134	78
New Trade Secrets Classified	245	128	65
New Products Introduced	12	10.7	14.6
Number of Approved New Projects	15	8.3	9.2
Total Active New Products	43	7.5	6.8
% Sales Attributed New Products, Last 3 Years	28	38	23
% Increase R&D	12%	12	7.6
% Resources/Investment Dedicated to New Products	35%	21	12.3
Avg. Development Cost per Project/Product ($M)	234	(7.4)	3.4
R&D Growth/Earnings Growth	1.15	15	8.6
Avg. Commercialization Speed (Months)	18	14.9	5.6

Overview | Patents | New Products | Invention Disc. | Active Projects | R&D | Rejected | (c) dipu |

Corporate Performance edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

Divisions	Patents	New Products	Invention Disclosures	Active Projects	R&D Headcount
Medical Systems	21	3	38	8	504
Industrial Systems	103	4	156	24	5500
Plastics	55	1	54	3	128
Capital	61	45	5	4	230
Information Services	84	1	15	6	300

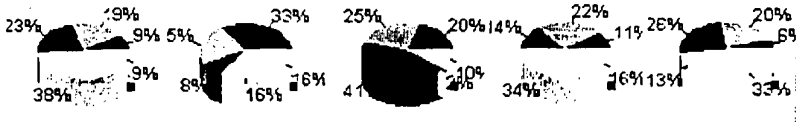


FIGURE 15d

questions, please contact either your department Innovation Representative or MMT Legal counsel at x5598, e-mail info@us-mindmatters.com

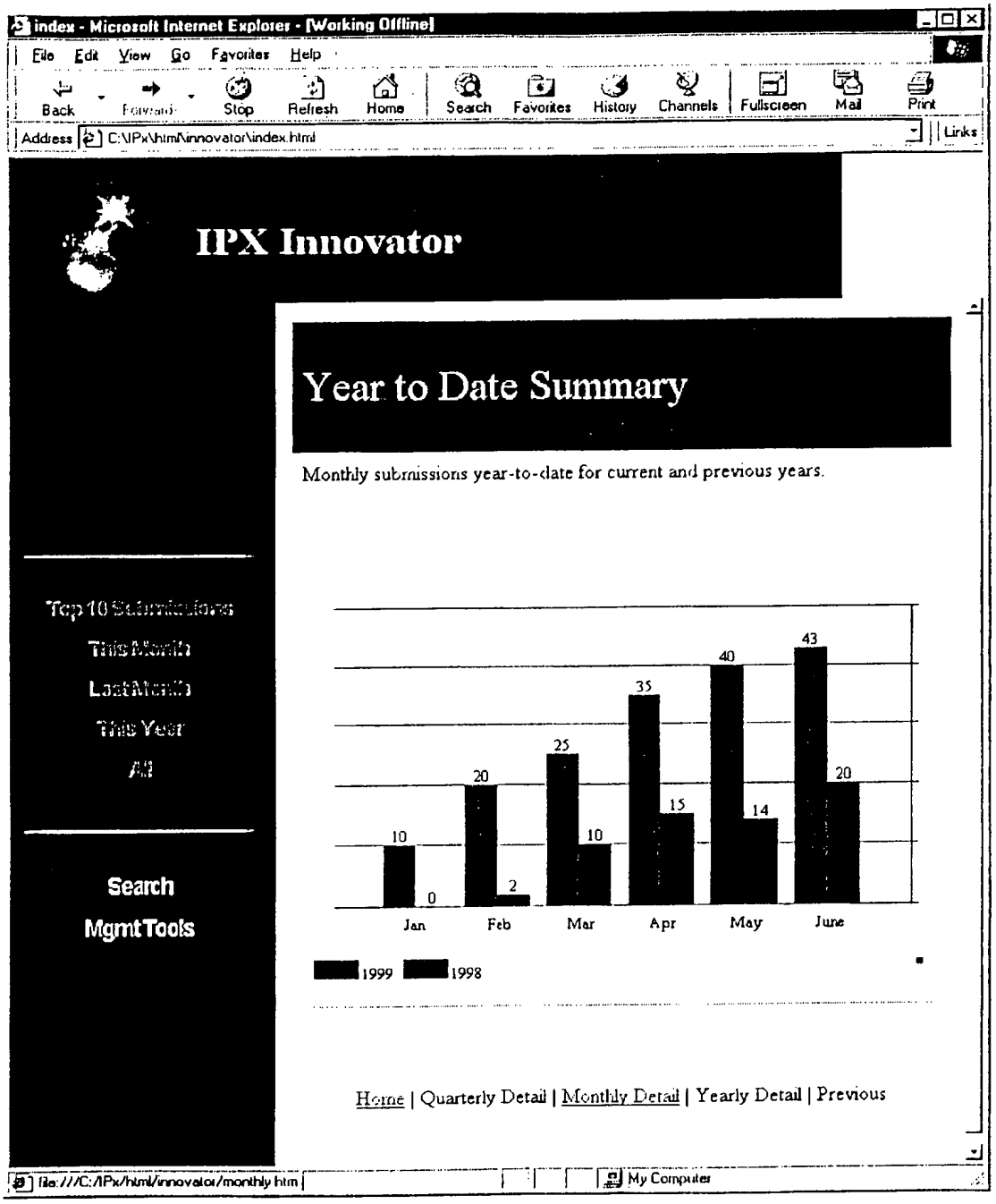

index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\htm\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Year to Date Summary
Monthly submissions year-to-date for current and previous years.
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
10
0
20
2
25
10
35
15
40
14
43
20
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
June
1999
1998
Home | Quarterly Detail | Monthly Detail | Yearly Detail | Previous
file:///C:/IPx/html/innovator/monthly.htm
My Computer

FIGURE 16a

MindMatters

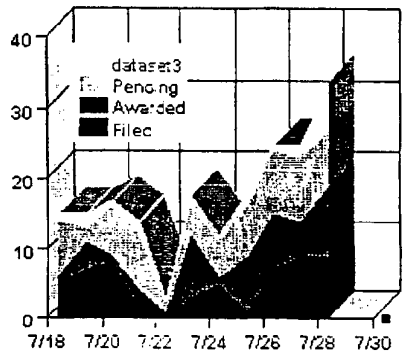
Innovator Division Overview

Home Page · Edit · Help

Patent Filings Rate

edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

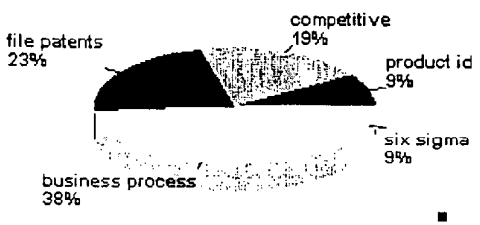


Category	YTD Total
Filed Patents	82
Awarded Patents	103
Pending Patents	56
Expiring Patents	12
Invention Disclosures	226

Corporate Performance

edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

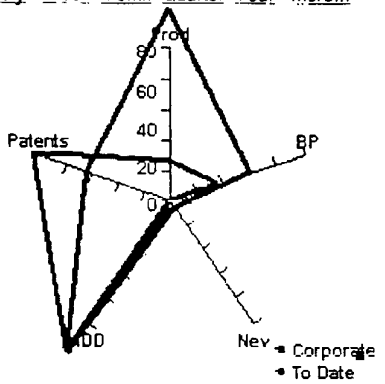


Innovation Category	YTD Total
New Products	21
Patents	103
Business Process Improvements	55
Six Sigma	61
Competitive	84

Strategic Goals

edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...



Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

New Product Submissions

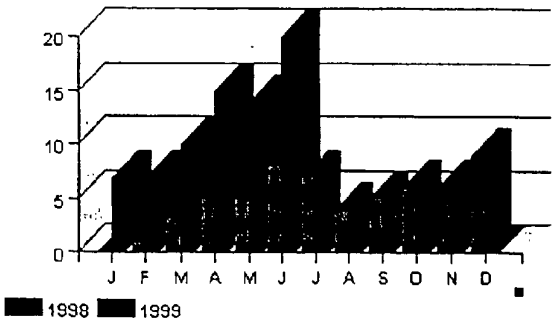
edit – ×

Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

Title	Authors	?	Rank
Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31%

Innovation Performance

edit – ×



Innovation Category	YTD Total
Invention Disclosures	2156

Top Licensing Revenue

edit – ×

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

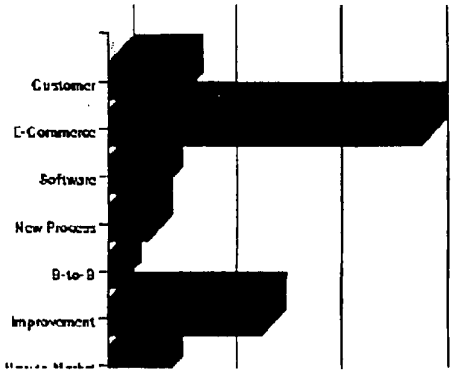


Figure 16b

Budgeted Innovations	55
Closed Innovations	489
Rejected Innovations	1349

Departments edit – ×

Seattle, WA

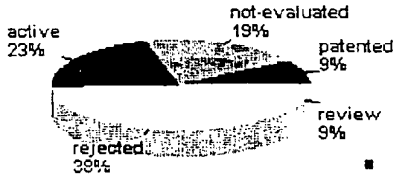
Marketing Sales WSA International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate More

Pittsburgh, PA

Sales International Finance Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

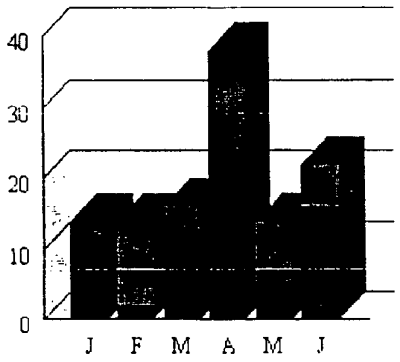
London, England

International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More



Corporate Performance edit – ×

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...



Title	Authors	?	Rank
1. Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
2. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
3. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
4. NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
5. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
6. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
7. Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
8. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
9. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31'

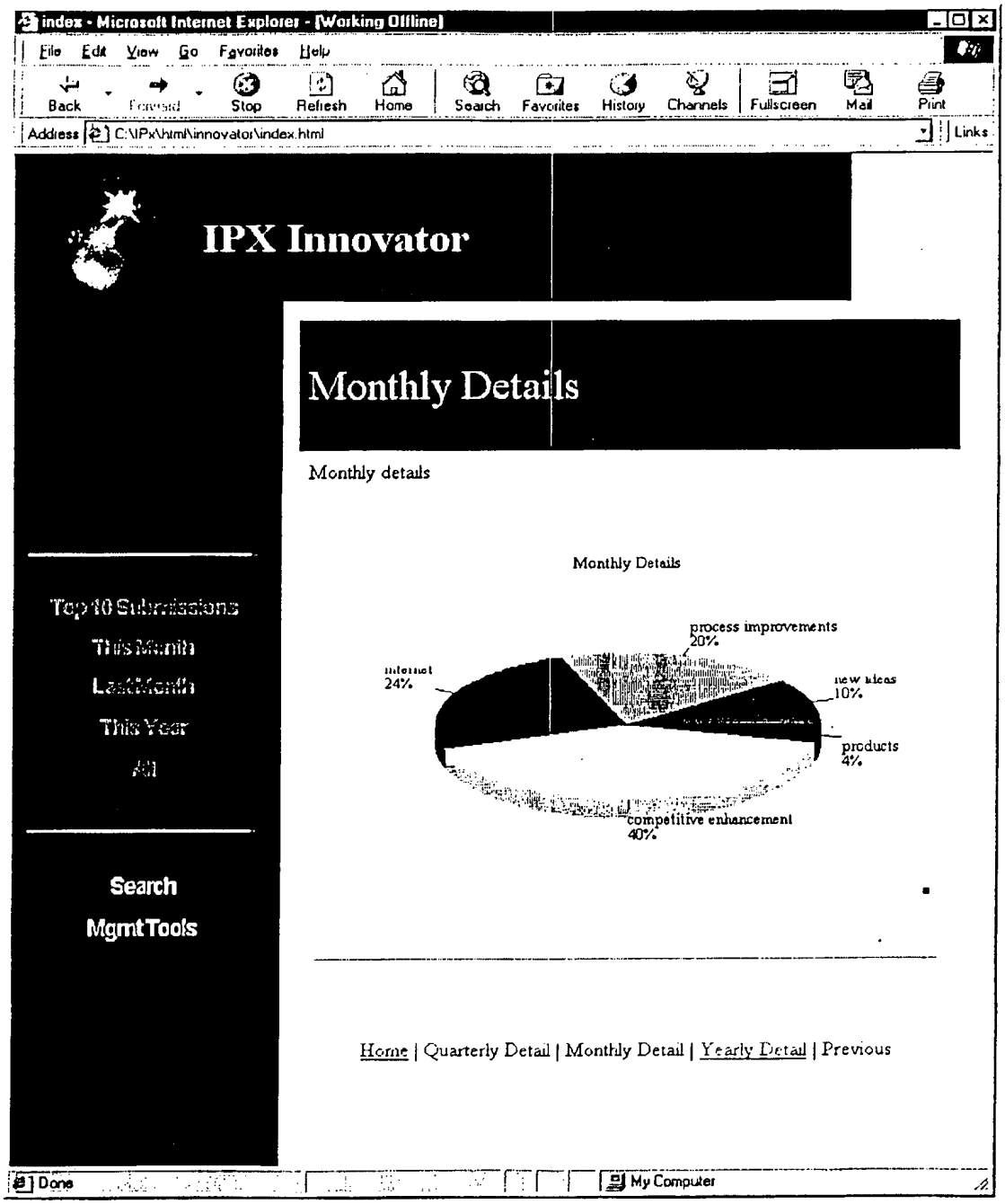

index - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\index.html
Links
IPX Innovator
Monthly Details
Monthly details
Monthly Details
process improvements 20%
internet 24%
new ideas 10%
products 4%
competitive enhancement 40%
Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All
Search
Mgmt Tools
Home | Quarterly Detail | Monthly Detail | Yearly Detail | Previous
Done
My Computer

Figure 17a

MindMatters

Innovator Management

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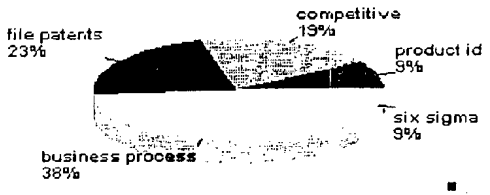
Table of Contents

Performance
IP Analysis
Search Agent
IP Portfolio
Human Resources
Education
Marketing Leads
Competitors
Insurance Submission
Spotlight
Website Publish IP
Reports
Innovation Database
Announcement
Innovator Configuration

Submission Overview edit

By Action Status IP Type Division Rank More...



Innovation Goals	Today	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	1	100
Filed Patents	1	50
Invention Disclosures	5	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	0	5
New Best Practices	2	50

Updates

April 20, 6:22PM EST

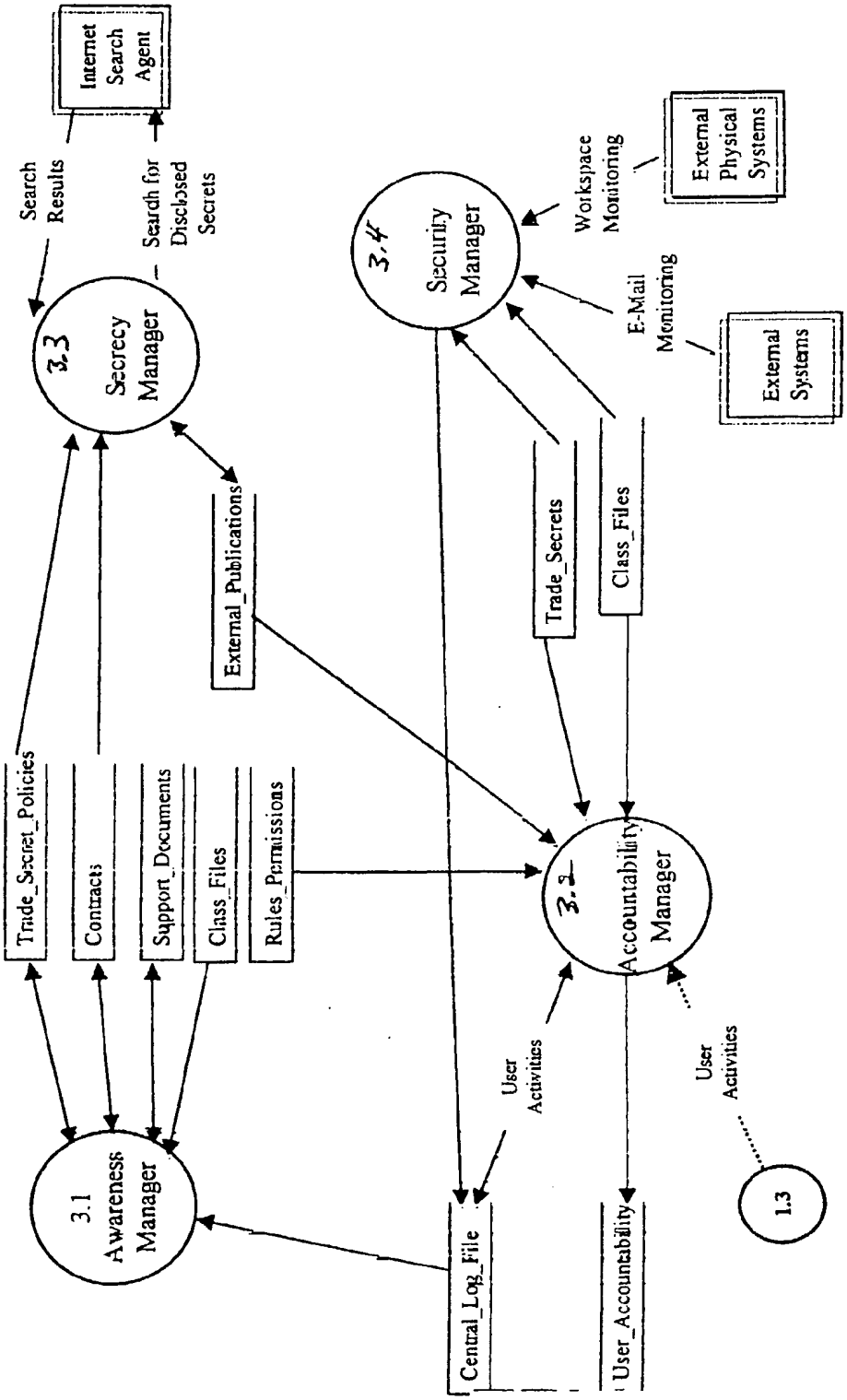
- PTO Updates MPEP
- Urgent Search Results
- 5 New Innovation Disclosures
- PK107 Review Results

Send Email
Calendar Lookup

Database Search

Active | In-Review | Patents | Trade Secrets | Trademarks | Copyrights | Licenses | Non-Active | Rejected

FIGURE 17b



Trade Secret System Overview Diagram

Fig 18

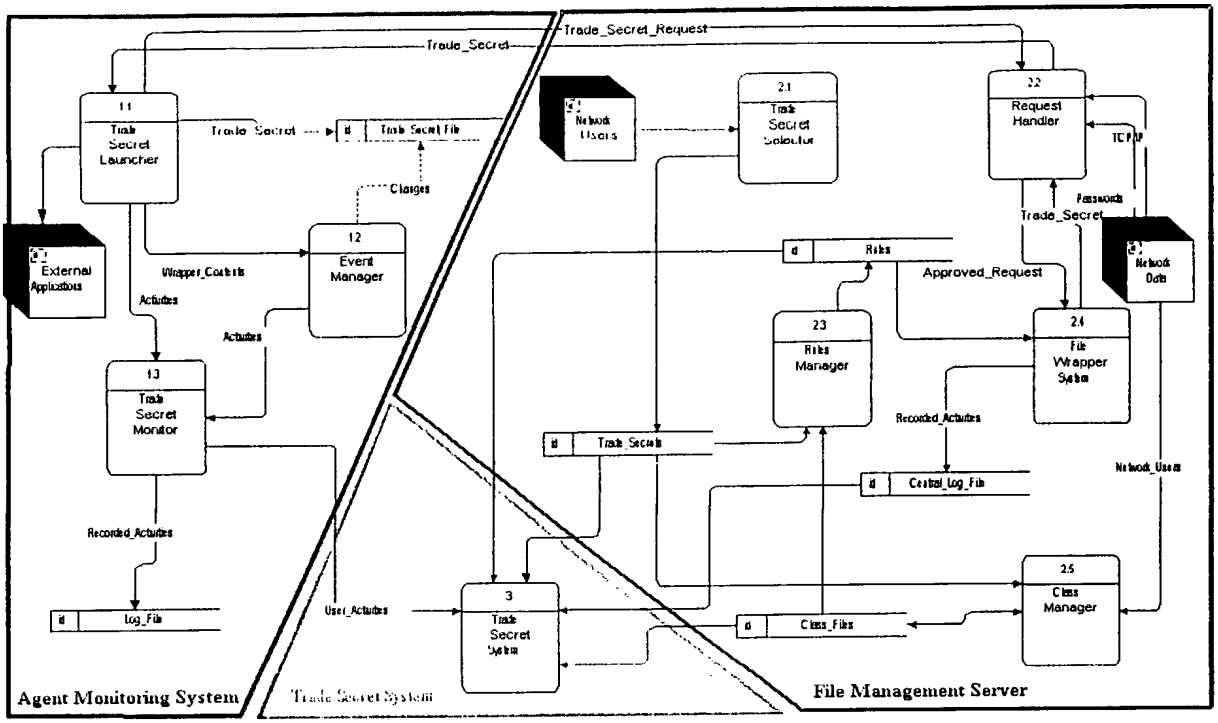

Trade_Secret_Request
Trade_Secret
1.1
Trade Secret Launcher
Trade_Secret
id
Trade Secret File
Changes
External Applications
Wrapper_Controls
Actuates
1.2
Event Manager
Actuates
1.3
Trade Secret Monitor
Recorded_Actuates
id
Log_File
User_Actuates
3
Trade Secret System
Network Users
2.1
Trade Secret Selection
id
Trade Secrets
id
Roles
2.3
Roles Manager
2.2
Request Handler
TCP/IP
Passwords
Trade_Secret
Approved_Request
Network Data
2.4
File Wrapper System
Recorded_Actuates
id
Central_Log_File
Network_Users
2.5
Class Manager
id
Class_Files
Agent Monitoring System
Trade Secret System
File Management Server

FIGURE 19

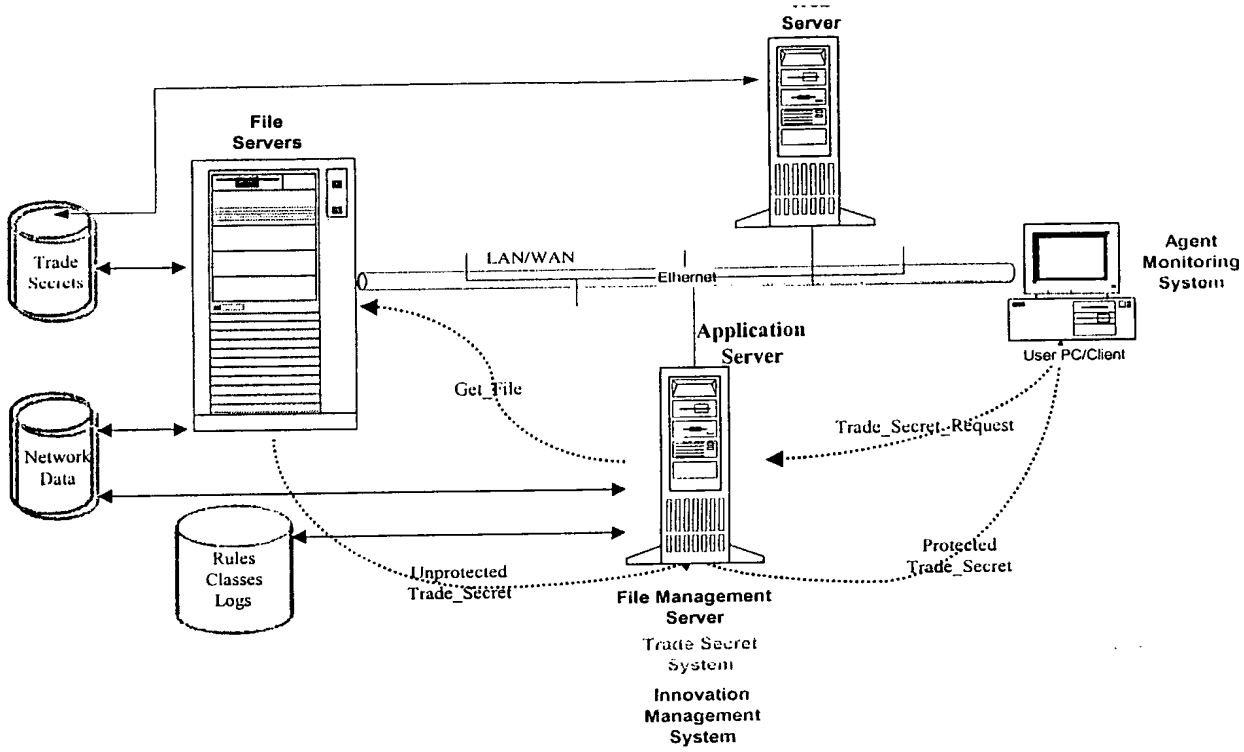

Server
File Servers
Trade Secrets
LAN/WAN
Ethernet
Agent Monitoring System
Application Server
User PC/Client
Get_File
Trade_Secret_Request
Network Data
Rules Classes Logs
Unprotected Trade_Secret
Protected Trade_Secret
File Management Server
Trade Secret System
Innovation Management System

FIGURE 20

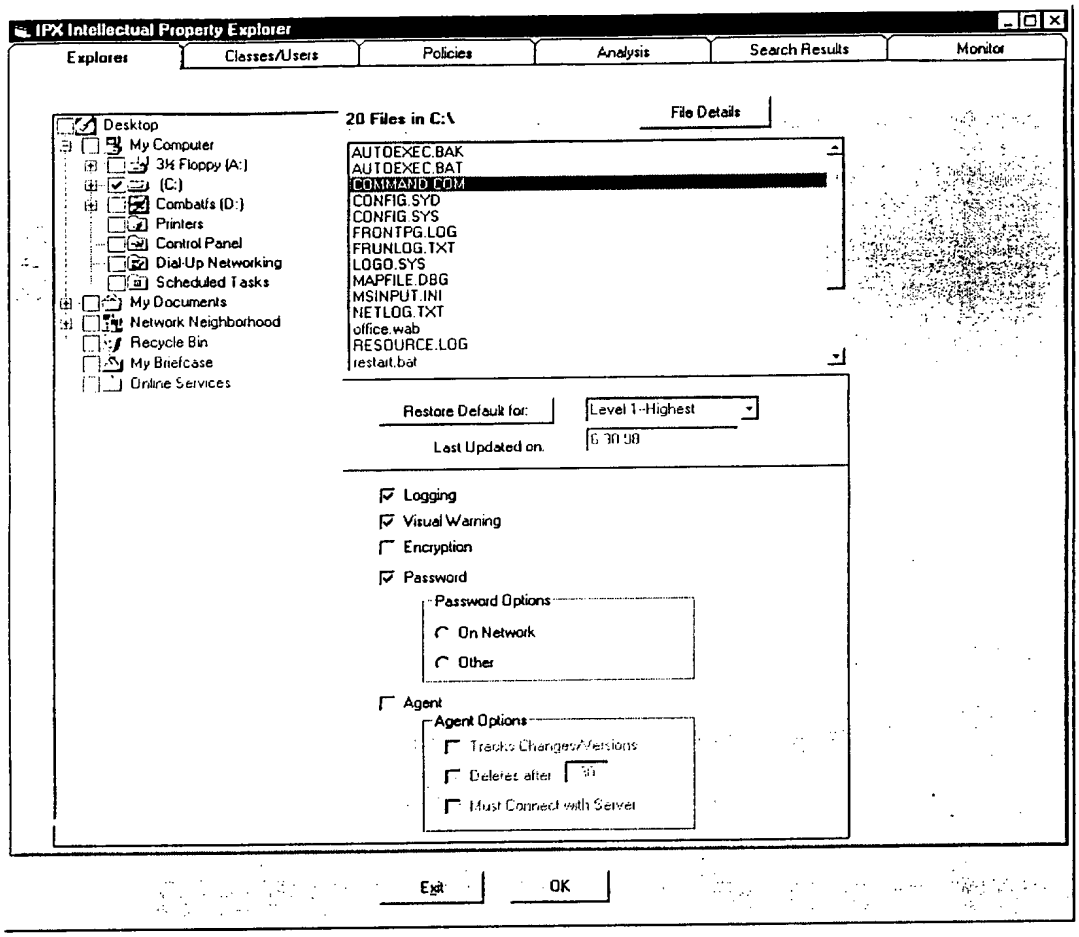

IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Desktop
My Computer
3½ Floppy (A:)
(C:)
Combat's (D:)
Printers
Control Panel
Dial-Up Networking
Scheduled Tasks
My Documents
Network Neighborhood
Recycle Bin
My Briefcase
Online Services
20 Files in C:\
File Details
AUTOEXEC.BAK
AUTOEXEC.BAT
COMMAND.COM
CONFIG.SYD
CONFIG.SYS
FRONTPG.LOG
FRUNLOG.TXT
LOGO.SYS
MAPFILE.DBG
MSINPUT.INI
NETLOG.TXT
office.wab
RESOURCE.LOG
restart.bat
Restore Default for:
Level 1--Highest
Last Updated on:
6/30/98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Tracks Changes/Versions
Delete after
Must Connect with Server
Exit
OK

FIGURE 21

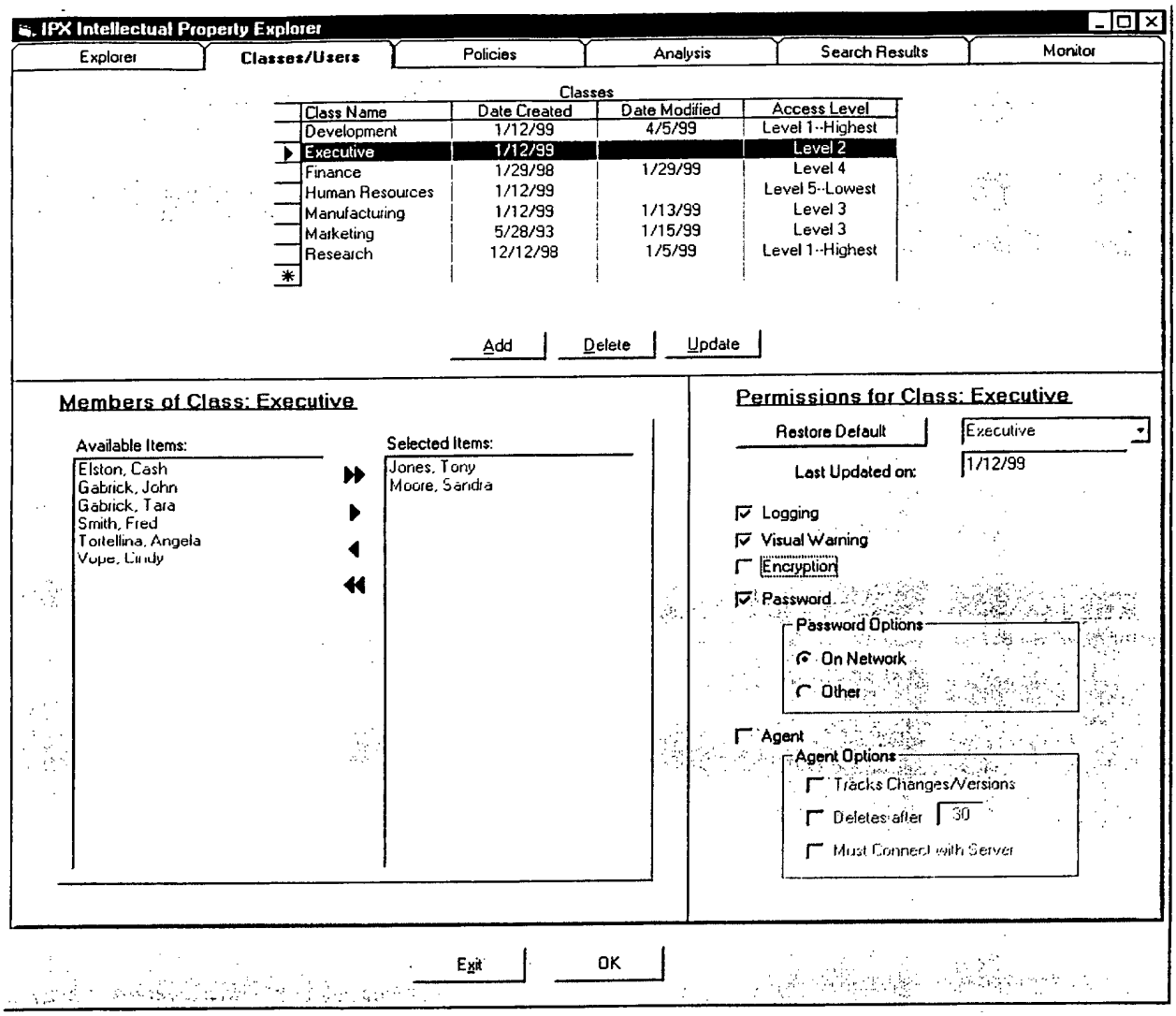

IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Classes
Class Name | Date Created | Date Modified | Access Level
Development | 1/12/99 | 4/5/99 | Level 1--Highest
Executive | 1/12/99 | | Level 2
Finance | 1/29/98 | 1/29/99 | Level 4
Human Resources | 1/12/99 | | Level 5--Lowest
Manufacturing | 1/12/99 | 1/13/99 | Level 3
Marketing | 5/28/93 | 1/15/99 | Level 3
Research | 12/12/98 | 1/5/99 | Level 1--Highest
Add
Delete
Update
Members of Class: Executive
Available Items:
Elston, Cash
Gabrick, John
Gabrick, Tara
Smith, Fred
Tortellina, Angela
Vope, Cindy
Selected Items:
Jones, Tony
Moore, Sandra
Permissions for Class: Executive
Restore Default
Executive
Last Updated on:
1/12/99
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Tracks Changes/Versions
Deletes after
30
Must Connect with Server
Exit
OK

FIGURE 22

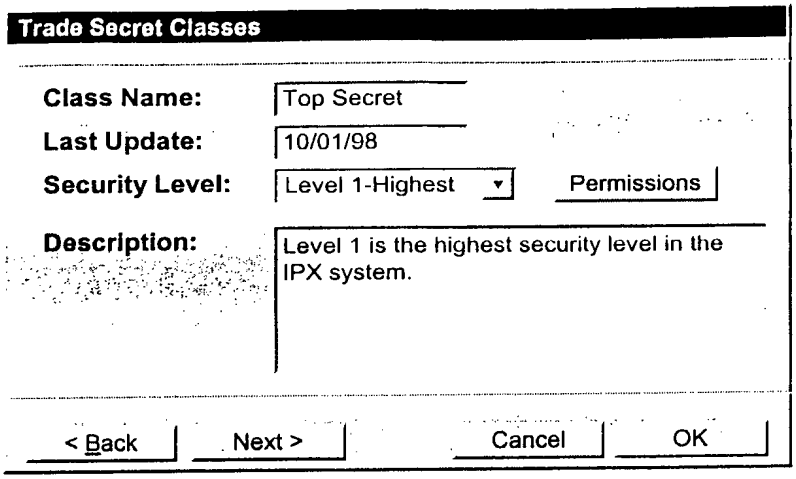


FIGURE 23

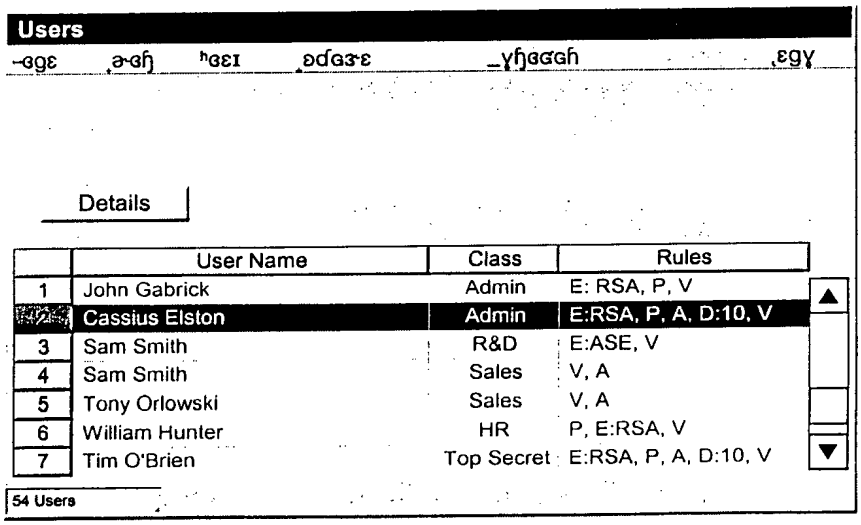


FIGURE 24

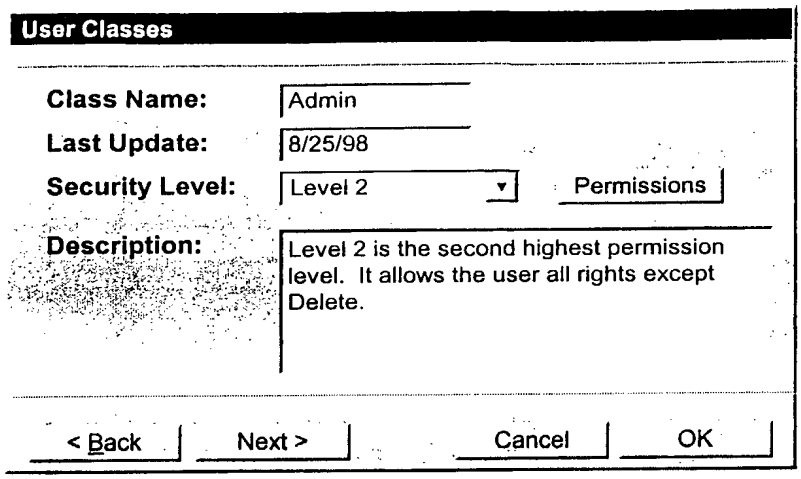


FIGURE 25

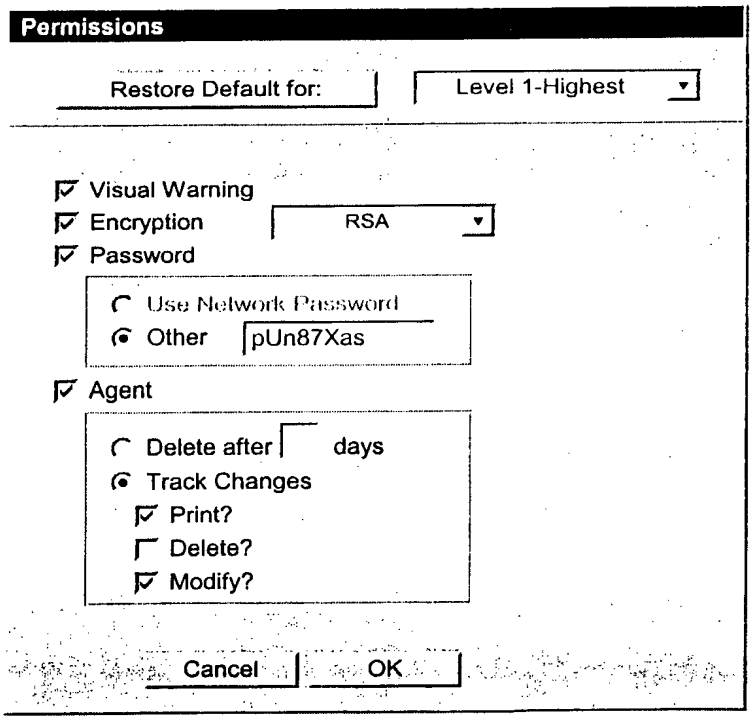


FIGURE 26

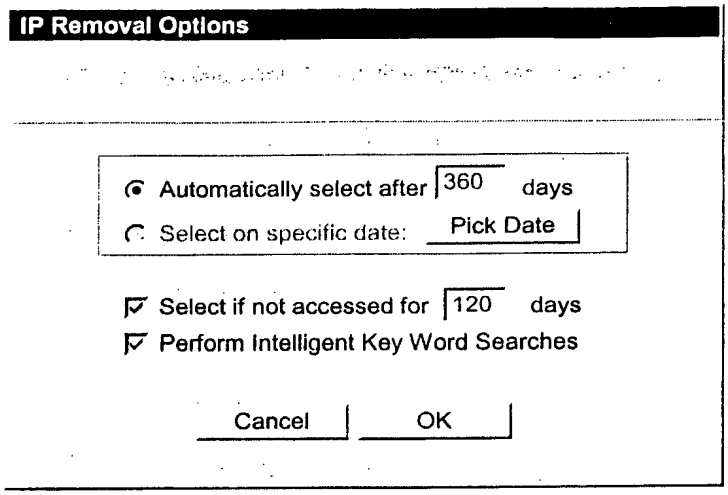

IP Removal Options
Automatically select after 360 days
Select on specific date: Pick Date
Select if not accessed for 120 days
Perform Intelligent Key Word Searches
Cancel
OK

FIGURE 27

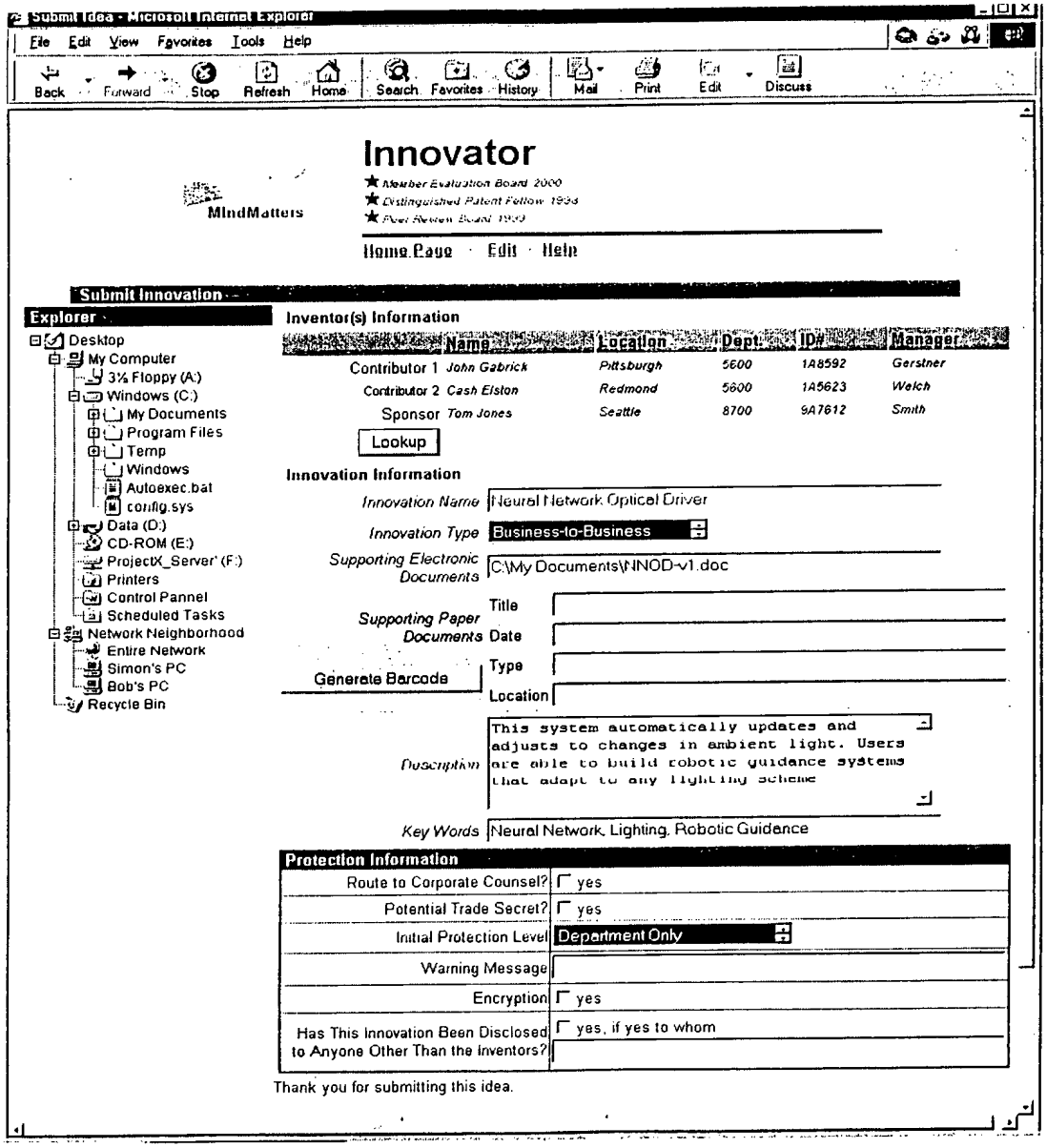

Submit Idea - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit Discuss
MindMatters
Innovator
Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999
Home Page · Edit · Help
Submit Innovation
Explorer
Desktop
My Computer
3½ Floppy (A:)
Windows (C:)
My Documents
Program Files
Temp
Windows
Autoexec.bat
config.sys
Data (D:)
CD-ROM (E:)
ProjectX_Server' (F:)
Printers
Control Pannel
Scheduled Tasks
Network Neighborhood
Entire Network
Simon's PC
Bob's PC
Recycle Bin
Inventor(s) Information
Name Location Dept ID Manager
Contributor 1 John Gabrick Pittsburgh 5600 1A8592 Gerstner
Contributor 2 Cash Elston Redmond 5600 1A5623 Welch
Sponsor Tom Jones Seattle 8700 9A7612 Smith
Lookup
Innovation Information
Innovation Name Neural Network Optical Driver
Innovation Type Business-to-Business
Supporting Electronic Documents C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc
Supporting Paper Documents Title Date Type Location
Generate Barcode
Description This system automatically updates and adjusts to changes in ambient light. Users are able to build robotic guidance systems that adapt to any lighting scheme
Key Words Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance
Protection Information
Route to Corporate Counsel? yes
Potential Trade Secret? yes
Initial Protection Level Department Only
Warning Message
Encryption yes
Has This Innovation Been Disclosed to Anyone Other Than the Inventors? yes, if yes to whom
Thank you for submitting this idea.

FIGURE 28a

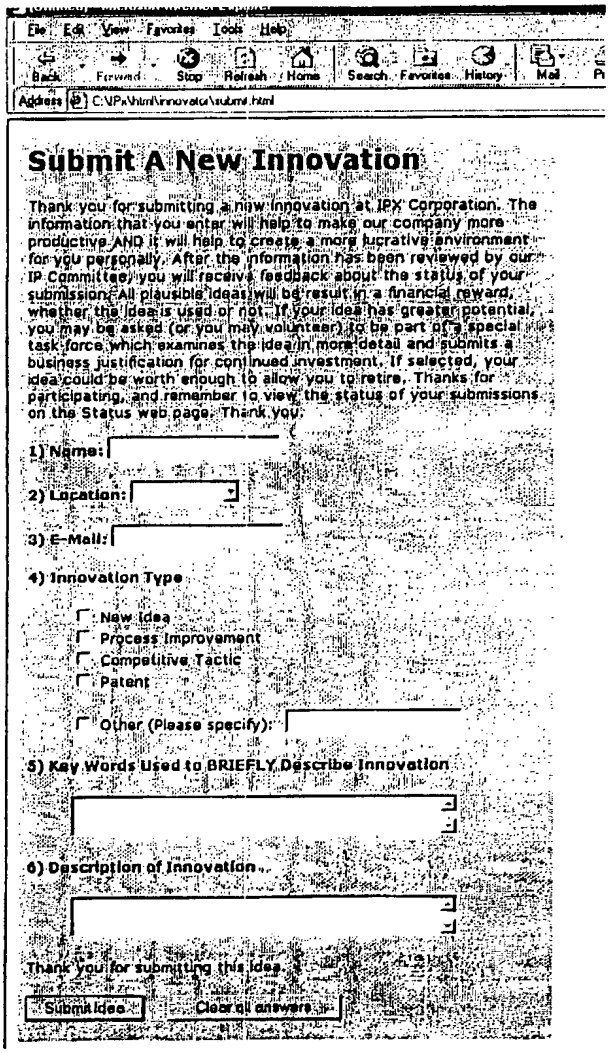

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail
Address C:\IPx\html\innovate\submit.html
Submit A New Innovation
Thank you for submitting a new innovation at IPX Corporation. The information that you enter will help to make our company more productive AND it will help to create a more lucrative environment for you personally. After the information has been reviewed by our IP Committee, you will receive feedback about the status of your submission. All plausible ideas will be result in a financial reward, whether the idea is used or not. If your idea has greater potential, you may be asked (or you may volunteer) to be part of a special task force which examines the idea in more detail and submits a business justification for continued investment. If selected, your idea could be worth enough to allow you to retire. Thanks for participating, and remember to view the status of your submissions on the Status web page. Thank you.
1) Name:
2) Location:
3) E-Mail:
4) Innovation Type
New Idea
Process Improvement
Competitive Tactic
Patent
Other (Please specify):
5) Key Words Used to BRIEFLY Describe Innovation
6) Description of Innovation
Thank you for submitting this idea
Submit Idea
Clear all answers

Figure 28b

MindMatters

John's Innovator Page

★★ *MEMBER EVALUATION BOARD*
★ *DISTINGUISHED PATENT FELLOW 1998*
Home Page · Edit · Help

Choose a new java plugin!! »

Innovation Database Search

Key Word(s)

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

Search Parameters

Results MUST NOT contain | the phrase

Results SHOULD contain | the phrase

Start Search | Reset

FIGURE 29a

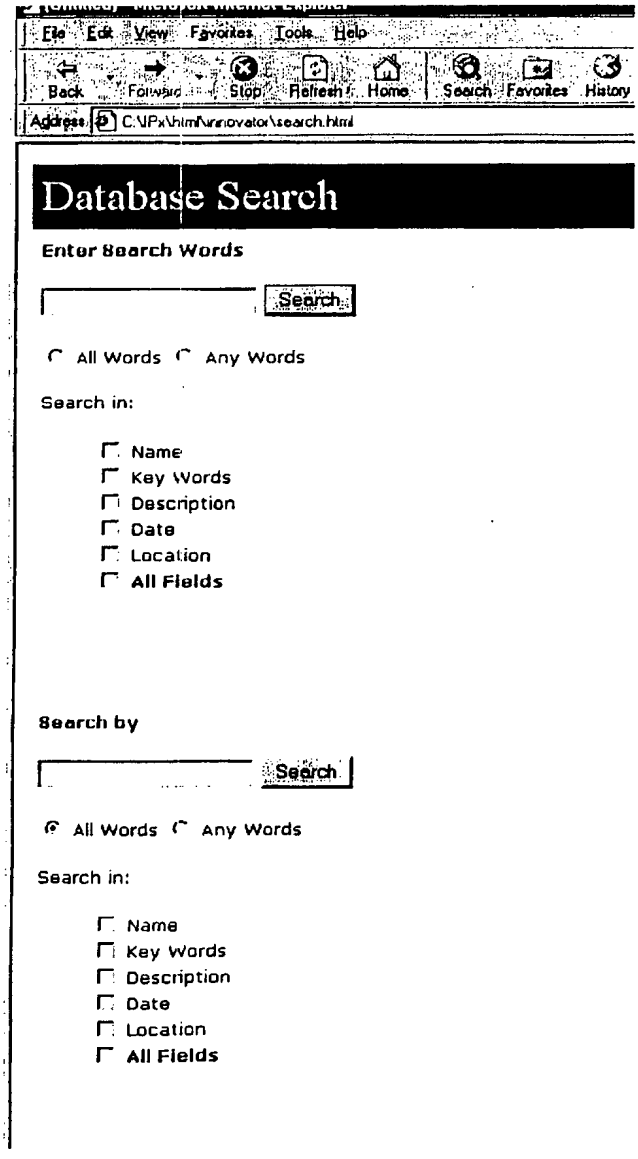

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History
Address C:\IPx\html\navigator\search.html
Database Search
Enter Search Words
Search
All Words Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields
Search by
Search
All Words Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields

FIGURE 29b

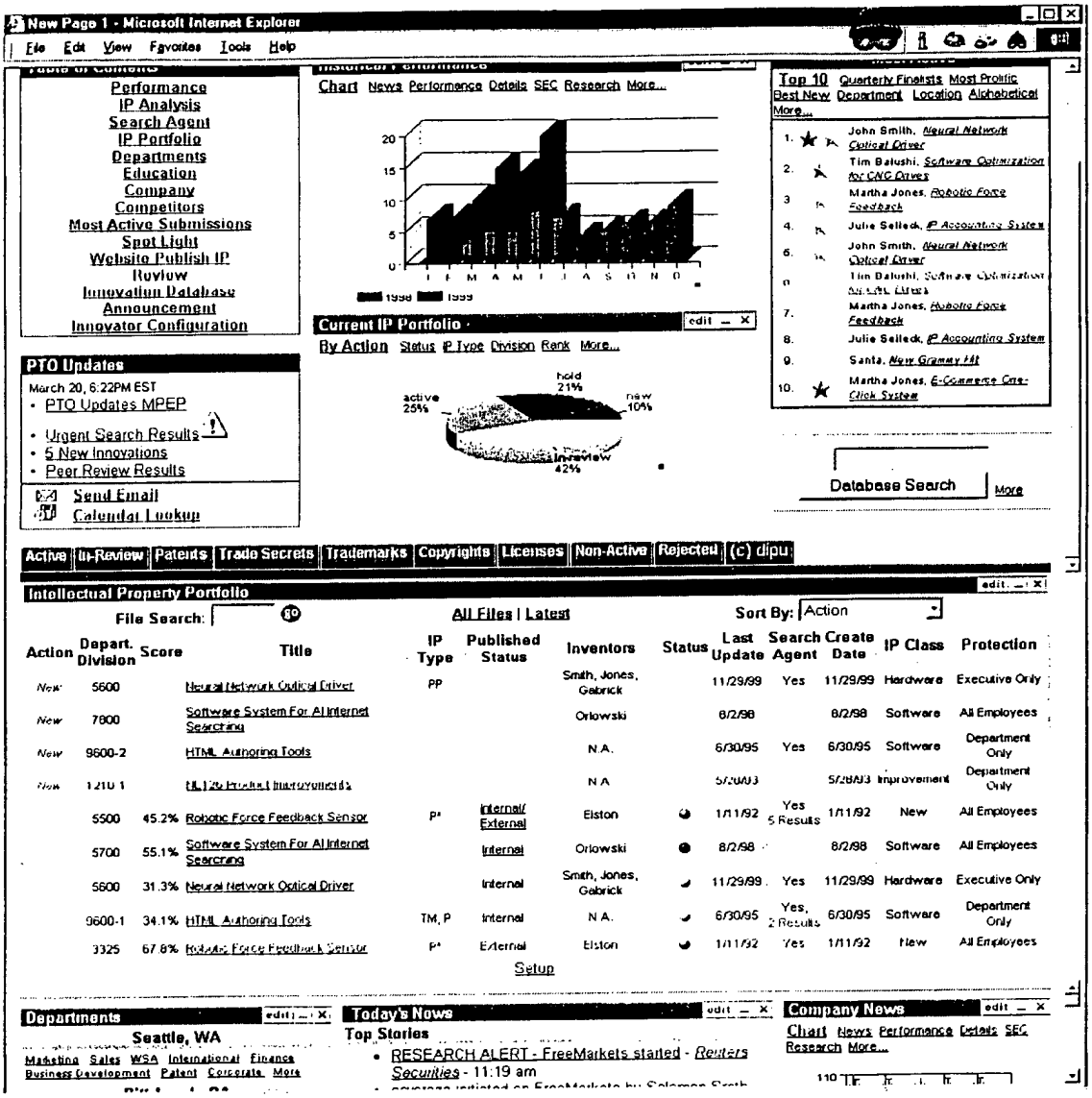

New Page 1 - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Performance
IP Analysis
Search Agent
IP Portfolio
Departments
Education
Company
Competitors
Most Active Submissions
Spot Light
Website Publish IP
Review
Innovation Database
Announcement
Innovator Configuration
PTO Updates
March 20, 6:22PM EST
PTO Updates MPEP
Urgent Search Results
5 New Innovations
Peer Review Results
Send Email
Calendar Lookup
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...
Current IP Portfolio
By Action Status IP Type Division Rank More...
hold 21%
active 25%
new 10%
42%
Top 10 Quarterly Finalists Most Prolific Best New Department Location Alphabetical More...
John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
Tim Balushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
Julie Selleck, IP Accounting System
Santa, New Grammy Hit
Martha Jones, E-Commerce One-Click System
Database Search
More
Active In-Review Patents Trade Secrets Trademarks Copyrights Licenses Non-Active Rejected (C) dipu
Intellectual Property Portfolio
File Search:
All Files | Latest
Sort By: Action
Action Depart. Division Score Title IP Type Published Status Inventors Status Last Update Search Agent Create Date IP Class Protection
New 5600 Neural Network Optical Driver PP Smith, Jones, Gabrick 11/29/99 Yes 11/29/99 Hardware Executive Only
New 7800 Software System For AI Internet Searching Orlowski 6/2/98 6/2/98 Software All Employees
New 9600-2 HTML Authoring Tools N.A. 6/30/95 Yes 6/30/95 Software Department Only
New 1210-1 HL12e Product Improvements N.A. 5/28/03 5/28/03 Improvement Department Only
5500 45.2% Robotic Force Feedback Sensor P* Internal/ External Elston 1/11/92 Yes 5 Results 1/11/92 New All Employees
5700 55.1% Software System For AI Internet Searching Internal Orlowski 8/2/98 8/2/98 Software All Employees
5600 31.3% Neural Network Optical Driver Internal Smith, Jones, Gabrick 11/29/99 Yes 11/29/99 Hardware Executive Only
9600-1 34.1% HTML Authoring Tools TM, P Internal N.A. 6/30/95 Yes, 2 Results 6/30/95 Software Department Only
3325 67.8% Robotic Force Feedback Sensor P* External Elston 1/11/92 Yes 1/11/92 New All Employees
Setup
Departments
Seattle, WA
Marketing Sales WSA International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate More
Today's News
Top Stories
RESEARCH ALERT - FreeMarkets started - Reuters Securities - 11:19 am
Company News
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

FIGURE 30a

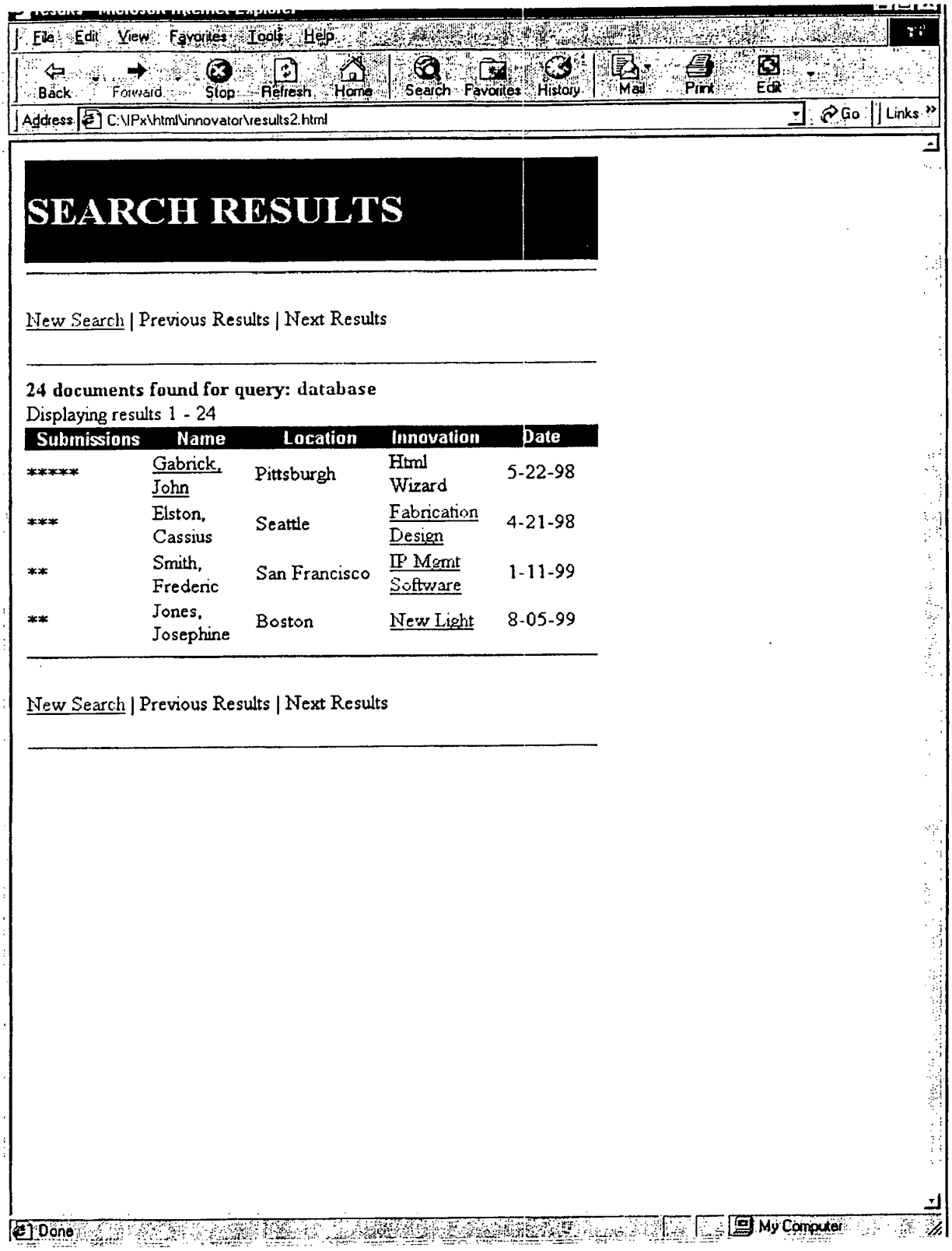

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\results2.html
Go Links
SEARCH RESULTS
New Search | Previous Results | Next Results
24 documents found for query: database
Displaying results 1 - 24
Submissions Name Location Innovation Date
***** Gabrick, John Pittsburgh Html Wizard 5-22-98
*** Elston, Cassius Seattle Fabrication Design 4-21-98
** Smith, Frederic San Francisco IP Mgmt Software 1-11-99
** Jones, Josephine Boston New Light 8-05-99
New Search | Previous Results | Next Results
Done
My Computer

FIGURE 30b

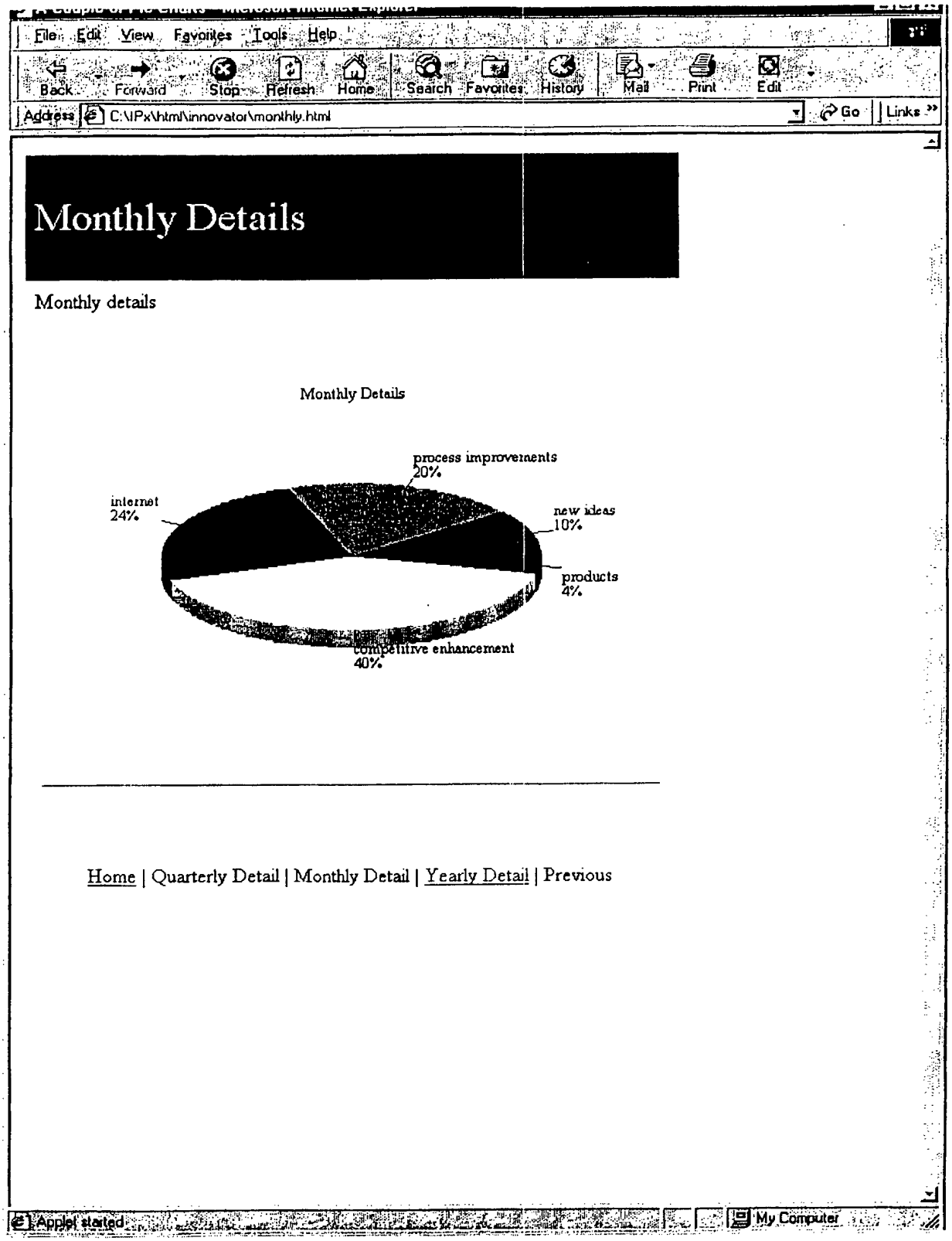

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit
Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\monthly.html
Go Links
Monthly Details
Monthly details
Monthly Details
process improvements 20%
internet 24%
new ideas 10%
products 4%
competitive enhancement 40%
Home | Quarterly Detail | Monthly Detail | Yearly Detail | Previous
Applet started
My Computer

FIGURE 31

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit

Address C:\IPx\html\innovator\tools.html Go Links

Management Tools

Un-reviewed Submissions — *This is a list of submissions that need to be reviewed and sent to the appropriate peer review committees*

Submission Tracker — *Graphical representation of submitted ideas by month, quarter, year, and year to date. View comparisons of different time periods*

External Responses — *E-mail requests from ideas published for viewing by innovation consortium members*

| Home |

Done My Computer

FIGURE 32

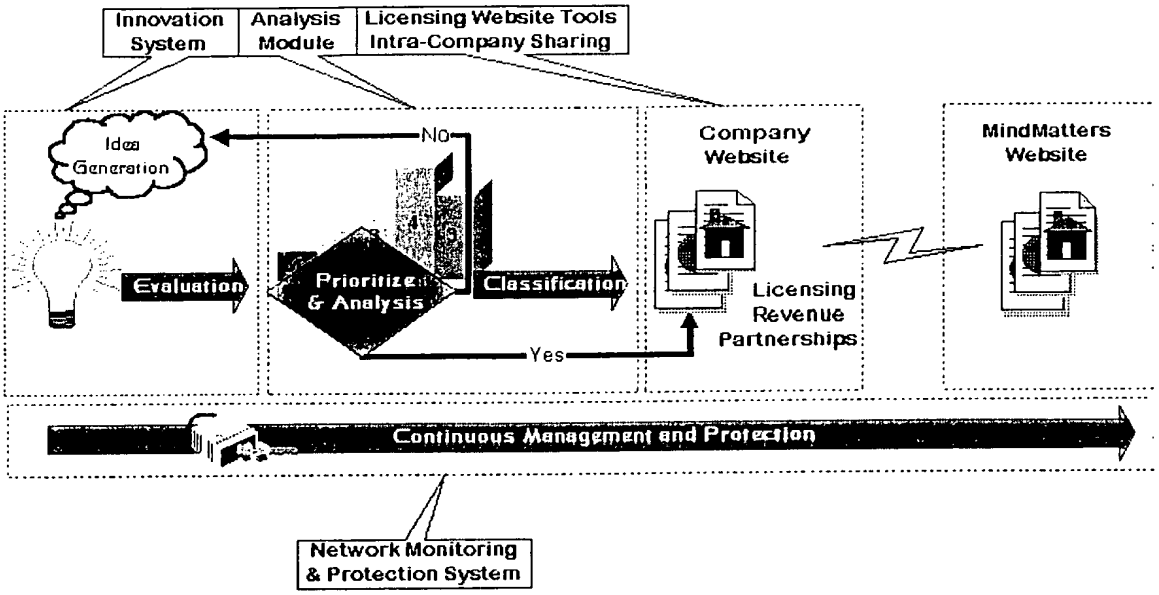

Innovation System
Analysis Module
Licensing Website Tools
Intra-Company Sharing
Idea Generation
No
Company Website
MindMatters Website
Evaluation
Prioritize & Analysis
Classification
Licensing
Revenue
Partnerships
Yes
Continuous Management and Protection
Network Monitoring & Protection System

FIGURE 33

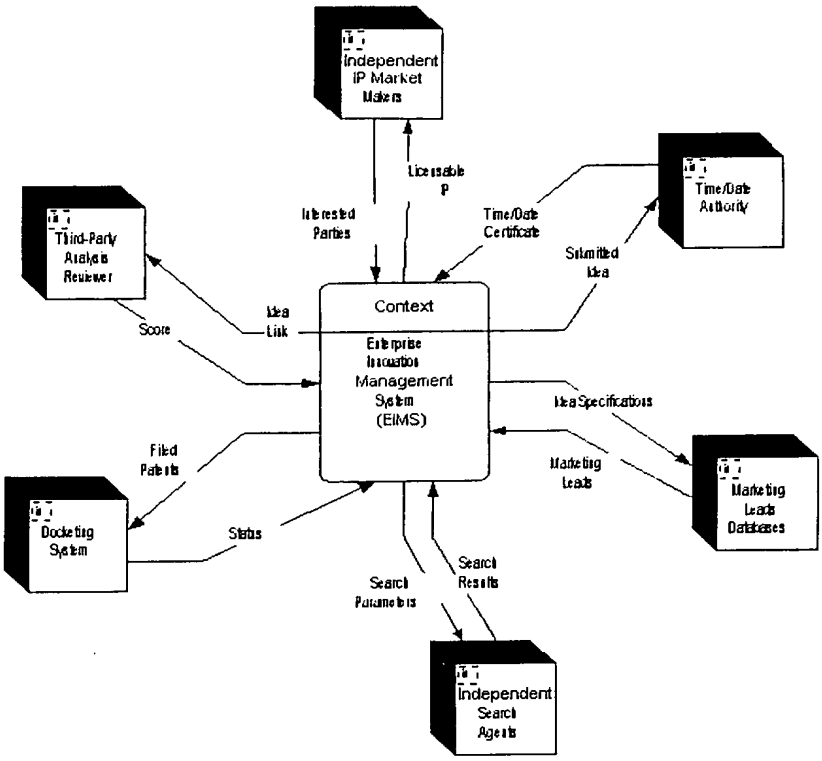
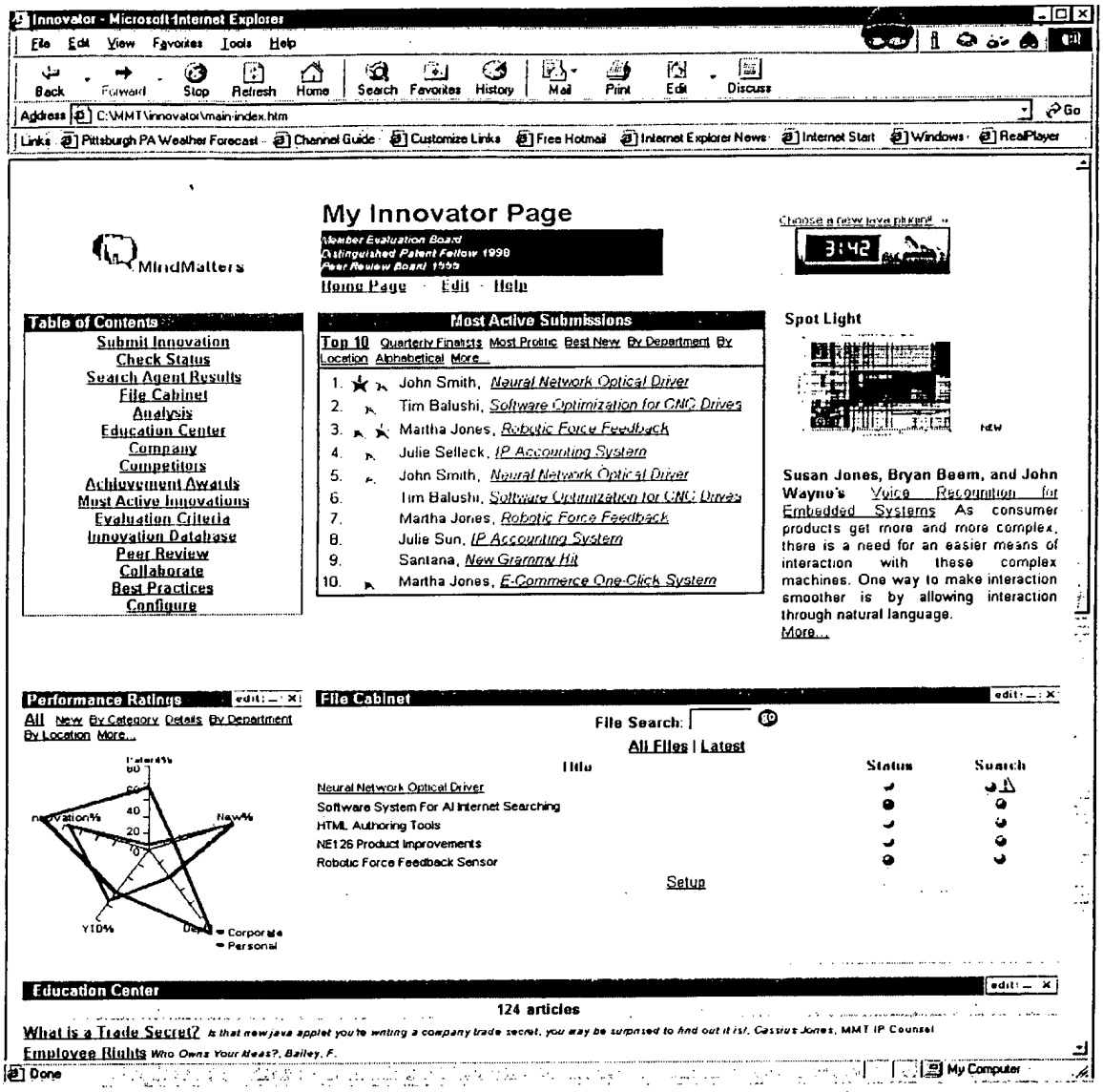

Independent IP Market Makers
Licensable IP
Interested Parties
Time/Date Certificate
Time/Date Authority
Submitted Idea
Third-Party Analysis Reviewer
Score
Idea Link
Context
Enterprise Innovation Management System (EIMS)
Idea Specifications
Filed Patents
Marketing Leads
Marketing Leads Databases
Docketing System
Status
Search Parameters
Search Results
Independent Search Agents

FIGURE 34


Innovator - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Mail Print Edit Discuss
Address C:\MMT\innovator\main-index.htm
Links Pittsburgh PA Weather Forecast Channel Guide Customize Links Free Hotmail Internet Explorer News Internet Start Windows RealPlayer
MindMatters
My Innovator Page
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Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999
Home Page Edit Help
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3:42
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Analysis
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Innovation Database
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Best Practices
Configure
Most Active Submissions
Top 10 Quarterly Finalists Most Prolific Best New By Department By Location Alphabetical More...
1. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
2. Tim Balushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
3. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
4. Julie Selleck, IP Accounting System
5. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
6. Tim Balushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
7. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
8. Julie Sun, IP Accounting System
9. Santana, New Grammy Hit
10. Martha Jones, E-Commerce One-Click System
Spot Light
NEW
Susan Jones, Bryan Beem, and John Wayne's Voice Recognition for Embedded Systems As consumer products get more and more complex, there is a need for an easier means of interaction with these complex machines. One way to make interaction smoother is by allowing interaction through natural language.
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All New By Category Details By Department By Location More...
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Innovation%
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Neural Network Optical Driver
Software System For AI Internet Searching
HTML Authoring Tools
NE126 Product Improvements
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor
Setup
Education Center
124 articles
What is a Trade Secret? Is that new java applet you're writing a company trade secret, you may be surprised to find out it is!, Cassius Jones, MMT IP Counsel
Employee Rights Who Owns Your Ideas?, Bailey, F.
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FIGURE 35a

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Inventor(s) Information

	Name	Location	Dept.	ID#	Manage
Contributor 1	John Gabrick	Pittsburgh	5600	1A8592	Gerstner
Contributor 2	Cash Elston	Redmond	5600	1A5623	Welch
Sponsor	Tom Jones	Seattle	8700	9A7612	Smith

Lookup

Innovation Information

Innovation Name: Neural Network Optical Driver

Innovation Type: Business-to-Business

Supporting Electronic Documents: C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc

Supporting Paper Documents: Title

Date

Type

Location

Generate Barcode

Description: This system automatically updates and adjusts to changes in ambient light. Users are able to build robotic guidance systems that adapt to any lighting scheme

Key Words: Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance

Protection Information

Route to Corporate Counsel? ☐ yes

Potential Trade Secret? ☐ yes

Initial Protection Level: Department Only

Warning Message

Encryption ☐ yes

Has This Innovation Been Disclosed to Anyone Other Than the Inventors? ☐ yes, if yes to whom

Thank you for submitting this idea.

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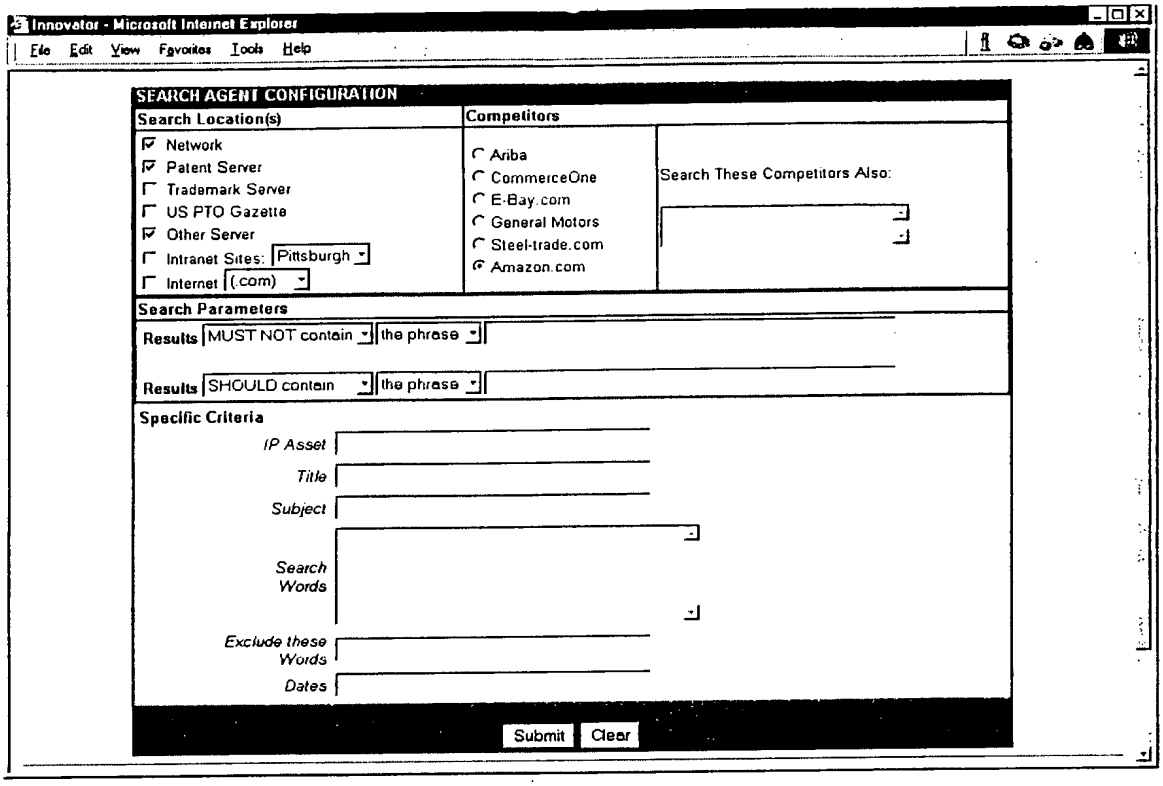
FIGURE 35b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Search Location(s)
Network
Patent Server
Trademark Server
US PTO Gazette
Other Server
Intranet Sites: Pittsburgh
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Results SHOULD contain the phrase
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FIGURE 36

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John B. Corbis

Director, Strategic Operations
Research and Technology
120 Oxford Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-566-3240
corbisj@rand.com

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Areas of Research/Development

Condensed matter physics, especially tunneling, semiconductors and organic solids; surface science, color systems design and integration; technology forecasting, planning and management

Publishing Changes

Condensed matter physics, especially tunneling, semiconductors and organic solids; surface science, color systems design and integration; technology forecasting, planning and management

Projects

Date	Title	Status
3-12-00	Neural Network Optical Driver	
6-1-99	Software System For AI Internet Searching	
11-29-98	HTML Authoring Tools	
5-12-97	NE126 Product Improvements	
1-11-92	Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	
10-15-90	Biomelric Nanocircuit	
8-6-89	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	
4-31-89	Browser Search Agent	

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Publications

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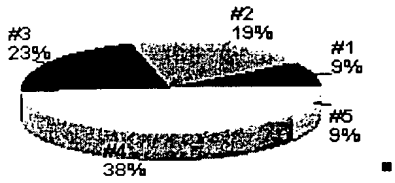
Personal Home Page Hits

	Search Term	Who	Date
1.	Software Intelligence	124.34.5.113 View Results | Delete	1-13-00
2.	Internet Searching	124.34.5.120 View Results | Delete	2-4-00
3.	Neural Network	124.34.5.126 View Results | Delete	2-4-00

File Cabinet Hits (Internal)

	Title	Hits
1.	Software System For AI Internet Searching	0
2.	NE126 Product Improvements	1
3.	Biometric Nanocircuit	0
4.	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	1
5.	Browser Search Agent	0



Collaboration Agents

	Title	Posted	Hits
1.	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	11-29-99	5
2.	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	1-2-00	1

Create New Agent

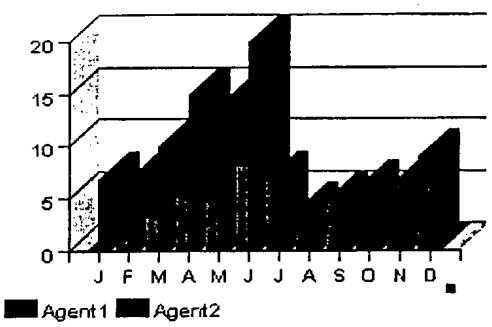


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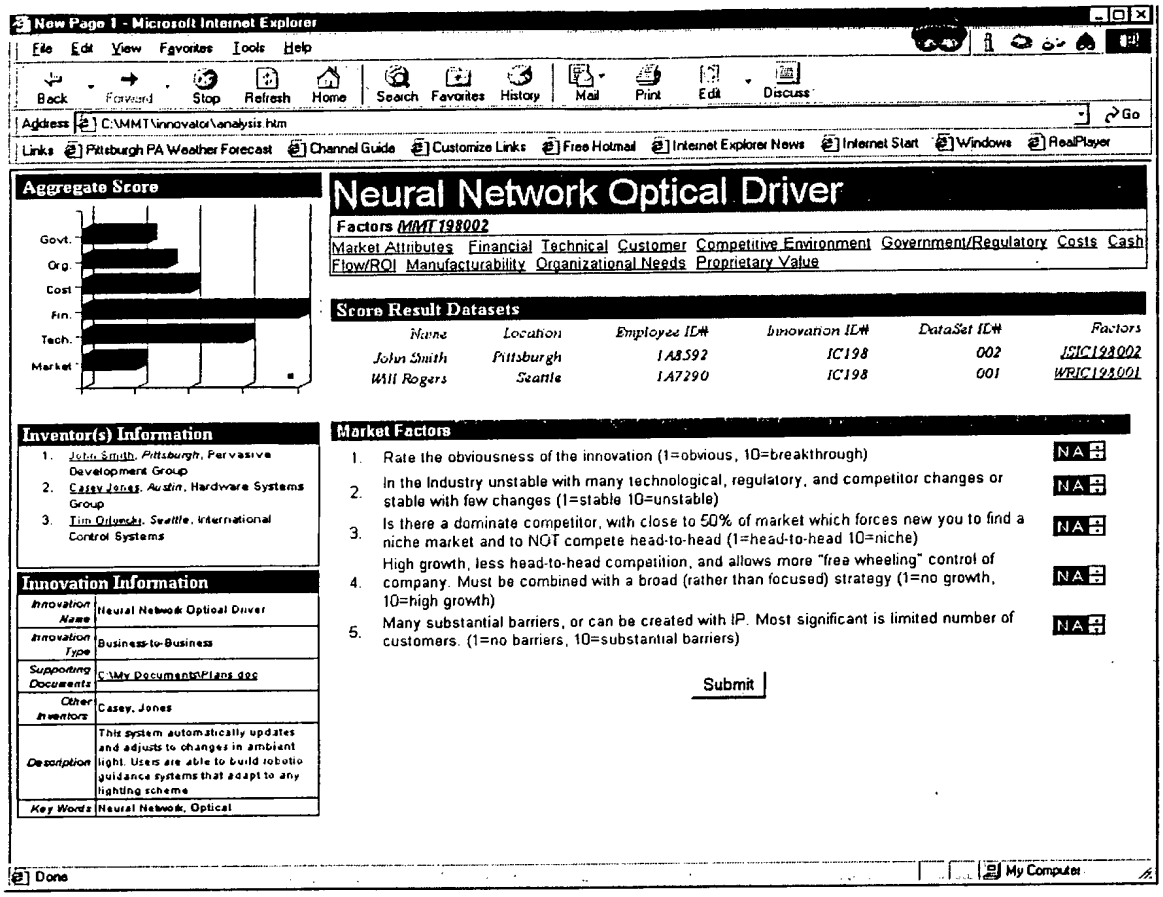
FIGURE 38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Address C:\MMT\innovator\analysis.htm
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Factors MMT198002
Market Attributes Financial Technical Customer Competitive Environment Government/Regulatory Costs Cash Flow/ROI Manufacturability Organizational Needs Proprietary Value
Score Result Datasets
Name Location Employee ID# Innovation ID# DataSet ID# Factors
John Smith Pittsburgh IA8592 IC198 002 ISIC198002
Will Rogers Seattle IA7290 IC198 001 WRIC198001
Inventor(s) Information
1. John Smith, Pittsburgh, Pervasive Development Group
2. Casey Jones, Austin, Hardware Systems Group
3. Tim Orlowski, Seattle, International Control Systems
Innovation Information
Innovation Name Neural Network Optical Driver
Innovation Type Business-to-Business
Supporting Documents C:\My Documents\Plans.doc
Other Inventors Casey, Jones
Description This system automatically updates and adjusts to changes in ambient light. Users are able to build robotic guidance systems that adapt to any lighting scheme
Key Words Neural Network, Optical
Market Factors
1. Rate the obviousness of the innovation (1=obvious, 10=breakthrough) NA
2. In the industry unstable with many technological, regulatory, and competitor changes or stable with few changes (1=stable 10=unstable) NA
3. Is there a dominate competitor, with close to 50% of market which forces new you to find a niche market and to NOT compete head-to-head (1=head-to-head 10=niche) NA
4. High growth, less head-to-head competition, and allows more "free wheeling" control of company. Must be combined with a broad (rather than focused) strategy (1=no growth, 10=high growth) NA
5. Many substantial barriers, or can be created with IP. Most significant is limited number of customers. (1=no barriers, 10=substantial barriers) NA
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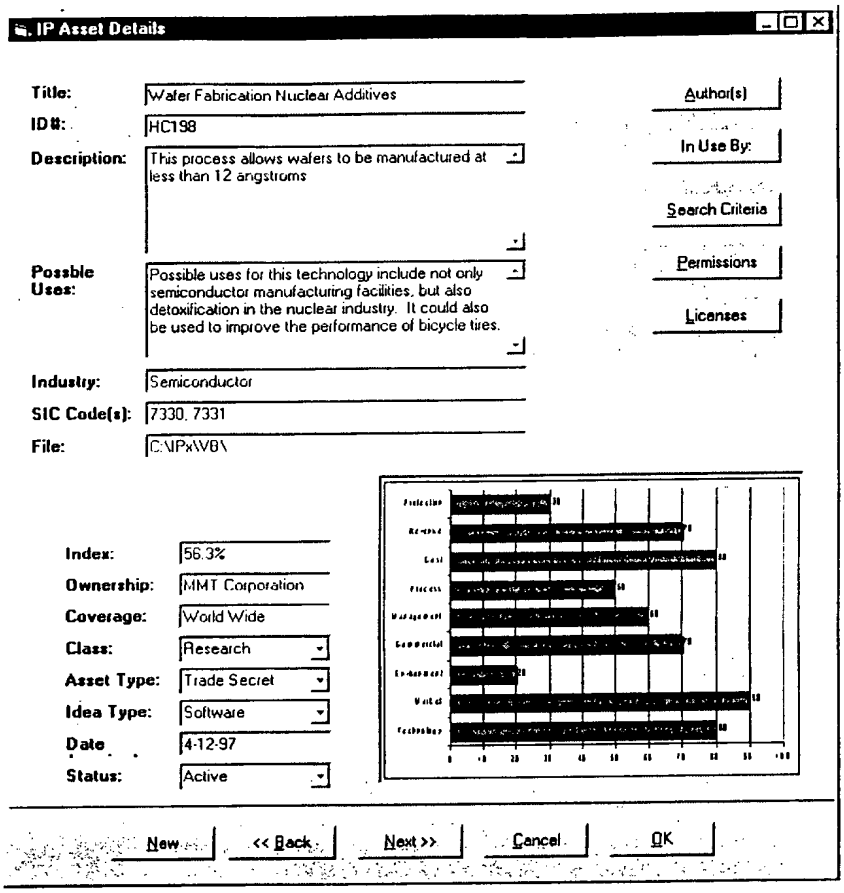
FIGURE 39


IP Asset Details
Title:
Wafer Fabrication Nuclear Additives
ID#:
HC198
Description:
This process allows wafers to be manufactured at less than 12 angstroms
Possible Uses:
Possible uses for this technology include not only semiconductor manufacturing facilities, but also detoxification in the nuclear industry. It could also be used to improve the performance of bicycle tires.
Industry:
Semiconductor
SIC Code(s):
7330, 7331
File:
C:\IPx\VB\
Author(s)
In Use By:
Search Criteria
Permissions
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Index:
56.3%
Ownership:
MMT Corporation
Coverage:
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Class:
Research
Asset Type:
Trade Secret
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FIGURE 40

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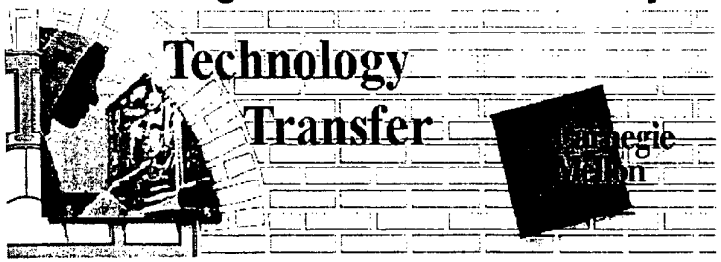
5 New Posts since your last visit

Innovations

Title	Inventor(s)	Posts	Last Post	Time	Resources Equipment	$Budget
Software Tool	John Gabrick	12	10-13-00	40	List	$5,000
Internet Searching Algorithm	Harry Potter	40	10-12-00	30	List	$1,250
Neural Network Driver	Ludwig Van	5	10-12-00	160		$100

FIGURE 41

FIGURE 42



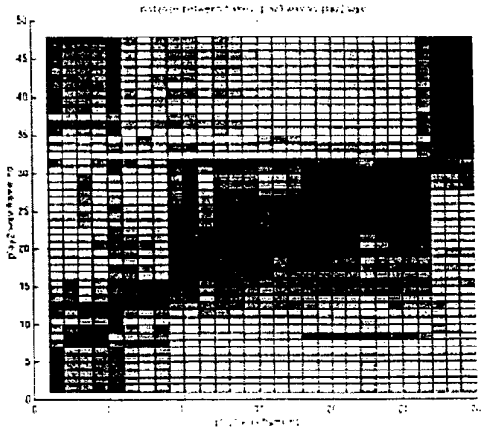
http://www.cmu.edu

INQUIRIES TO: Mathew Smith mathew.smith@cmu.edu

REFERENCE: 1996-282

CATEGORIES:
- Computer Software > AI software > Neural network software
- Factory Automation > Robot controllers

OPPORTUNITY: Licensing deal for 20% of revenue over a period of 5 years.



Voice Recognition Intensities

BACKGROUND

Stable and robust execution of contact tasks is of paramount importance for robot manipulators in many applications. Although there has been much interest in solving this problem, there have been no satisfactory solutions to date.

DESCRIPTION

Researchers at the Carnegie Mellon University have developed a simple adaptive control algorithm that allows a robot to track any surface profile while maintaining a desired contact force on the object. This algorithm enables a robot manipulator to track with a specified force under totally unknown environmental conditions of stiffness and location. Both the stability and convergence of the algorithm are guaranteed.

APPLICATIONS

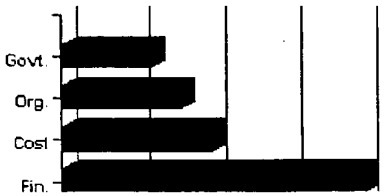
This force-control algorithm will be invaluable in a great variety of manufacturing and automotive applications currently performed either manually

ADVANTAGES

This novel force-tracking algorithm solves an important problem in robot manipulator control and has been successfully demonstrated in the PUMA robot manipulator arm.

- Allows tracking of any surface profile with desired force under totally unknown environmental conditions of both stiffness and location;
- Robust - both stability and convergence are guaranteed;
- Simple to implement.

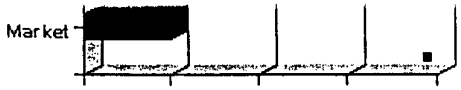
ANALYSIS



STATUS

1. Submitted	2/1/99
2. Reviewed by Peer Committee	3/15/99
3. Designated Class 1 Trade Secret	3/17/99
4. Original Submission Split into 2 Parts: Software and Hardware	4/1/99
5. Software Specification Re-submitted	4/15/99
6. Hardware Re-submitted	5/1/99
7. Approved by Peer Committee	6/15/99
8. Claims Drafted	6/30/99
9. Search Agent Locates New Prior Art	7/4/99
10. Claims Re-Drafted	7/10/99
11. Provisional Patent Filed	8/1/99
12. Invention Assignment Completed	8/1/99
13. PTO First Review Anticipated	8/1/00

- Grinding
- Polishing
- Buffing
- Deburring
- Assembly operations



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- Engineering
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Submission Status

[ ] New [ ] Accepted [ ] Rejected [ ] All

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Search Keywords

[ ]

Describe the specific skills or areas of interest.

Agent Title *

[ ]

Create a title to help you remember your agent's criteria.

[Save Agent] [Cancel Agent]

FIGURE 43

WO 01/35277 PCT/US00/30868 67/96

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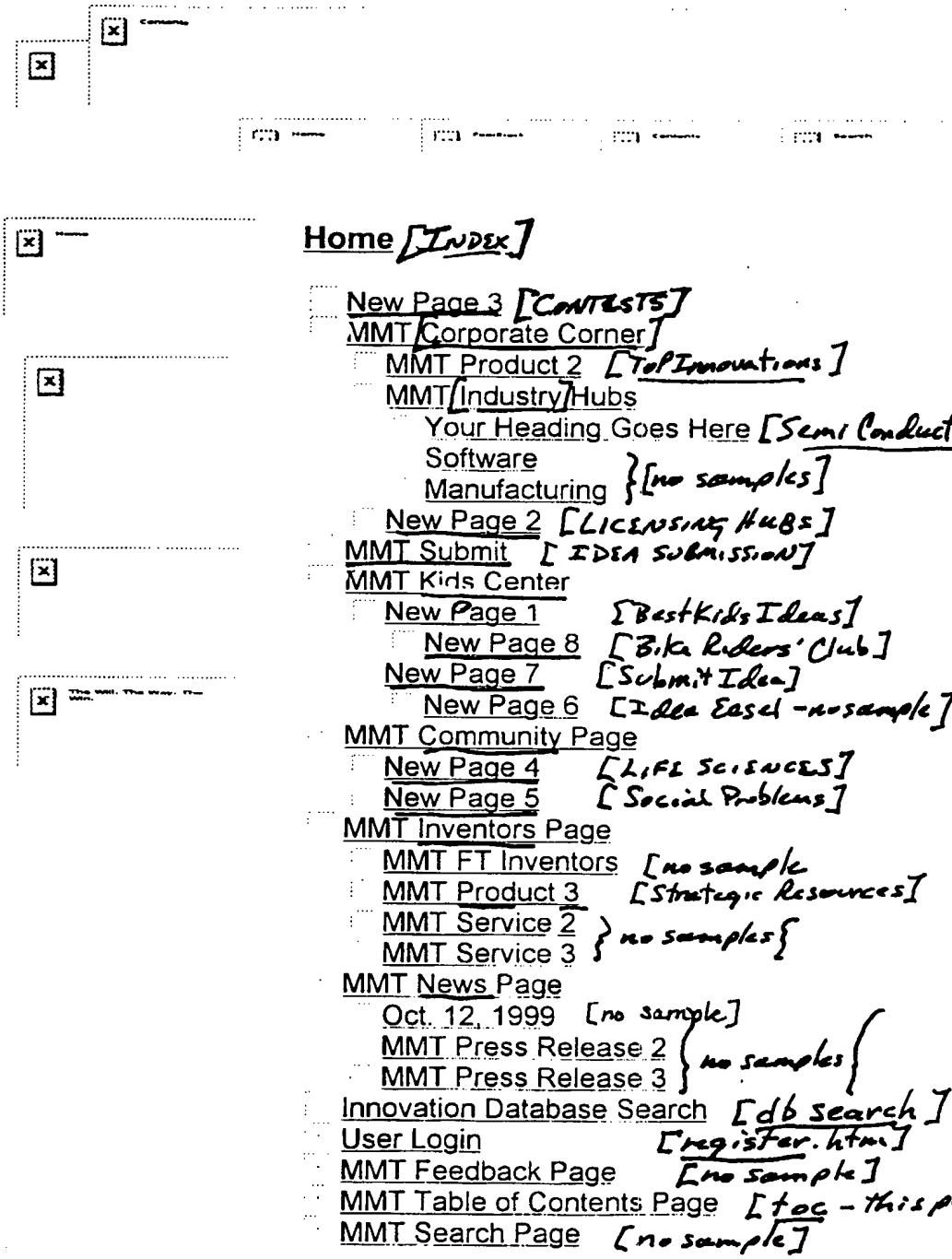

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Last modified: September 26, 1999

FIGURE 44

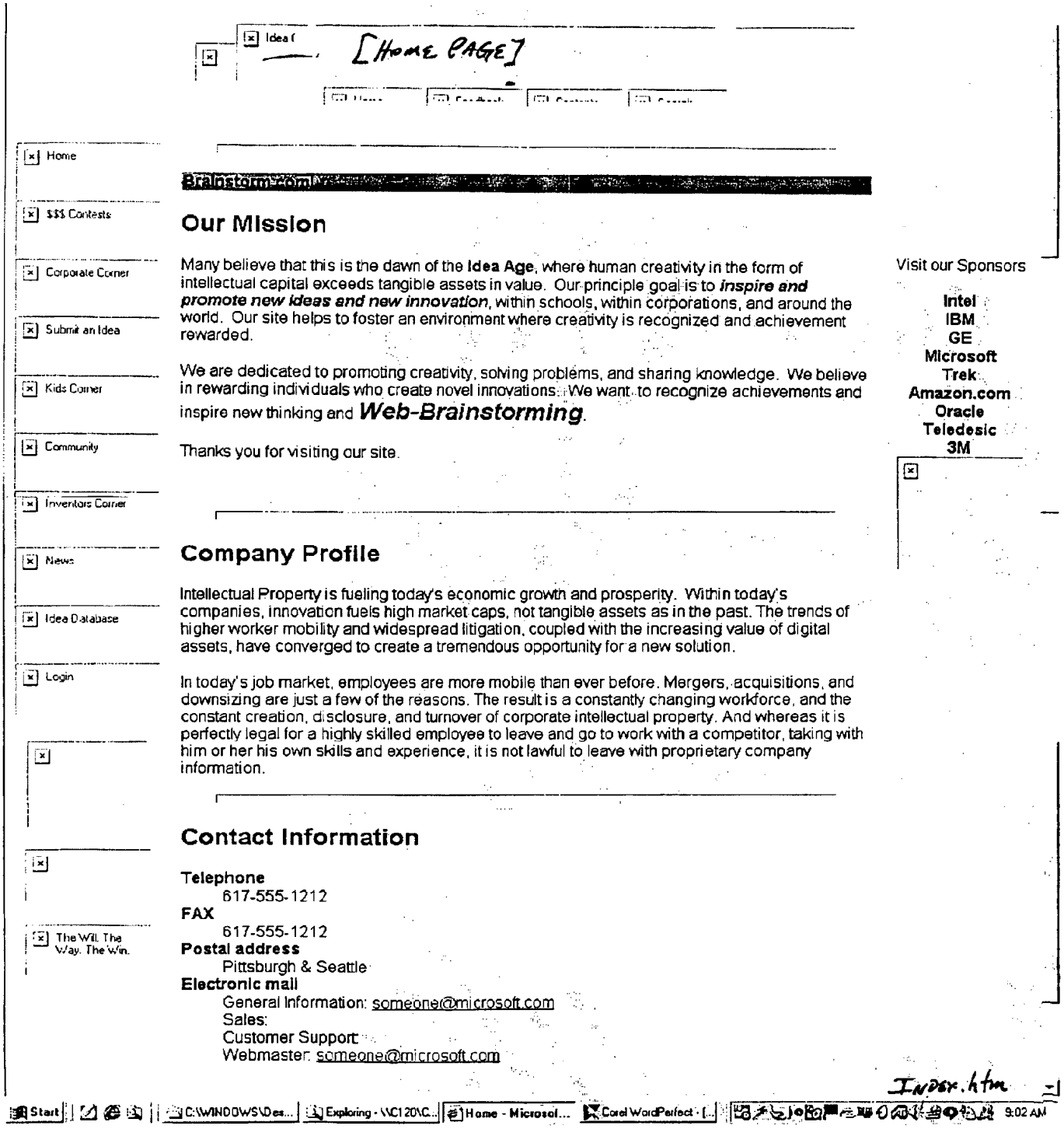
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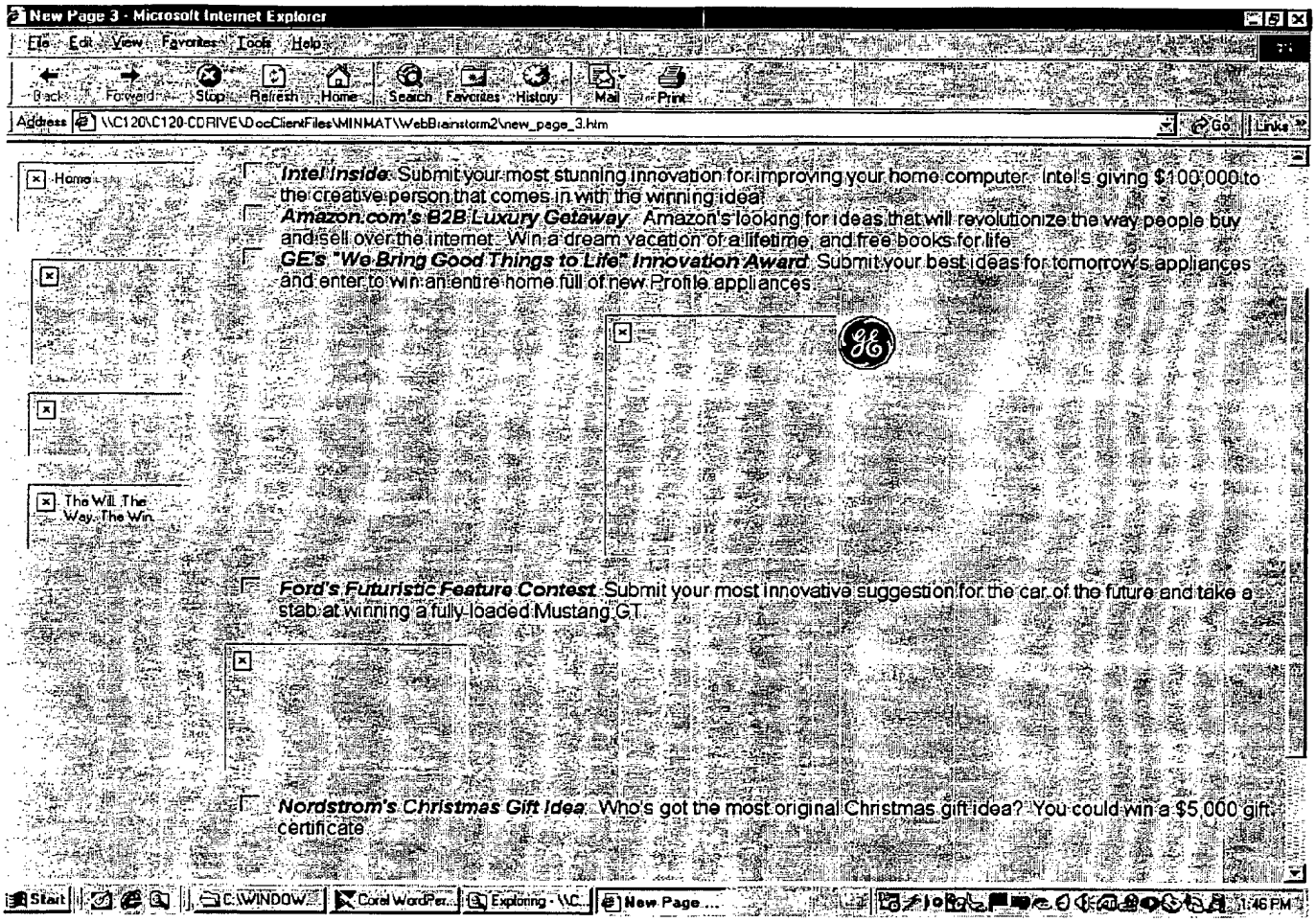
FIGURE 45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Intel Inside. Submit your most stunning innovation for improving your home computer. Intel's giving $100,000 to the creative person that comes in with the winning idea!
Amazon.com's B2B Luxury Getaway. Amazon's looking for ideas that will revolutionize the way people buy and sell over the Internet. Win a dream vacation of a lifetime, and free books for life!
GE's "We Bring Good Things to Life" Innovation Award. Submit your best ideas for tomorrow's appliances and enter to win an entire home full of new Profile appliances.
Ford's Futuristic Feature Contest. Submit your most innovative suggestion for the car of the future and take a stab at winning a fully-loaded Mustang GT.
Nordstrom's Christmas Gift Idea. Who's got the most original Christmas gift idea? You could win a $5,000 gift certificate!
Start
C:\WINDOW...
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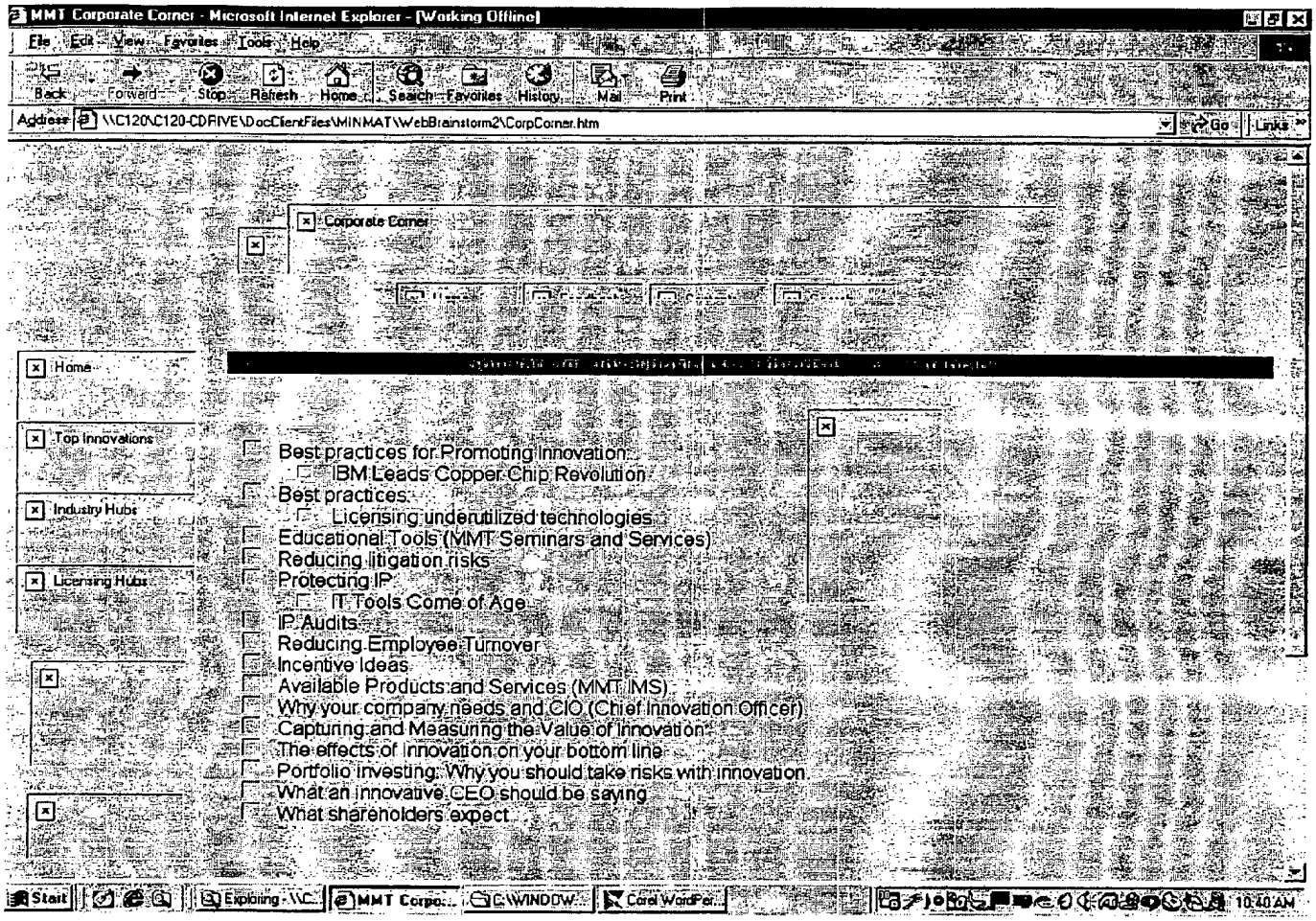
New Page ...
1:46 PM

FIGURE 46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IP Audits
Reducing Employee Turnover
Incentive Ideas
Available Products and Services (MMT, IMS)
Why your company needs and CIO (Chief Innovation Officer)
Capturing and Measuring the Value of Innovation
The effects of innovation on your bottom line
Portfolio investing: Why you should take risks with innovation
What an innovative CEO should be saying
What shareholders expect
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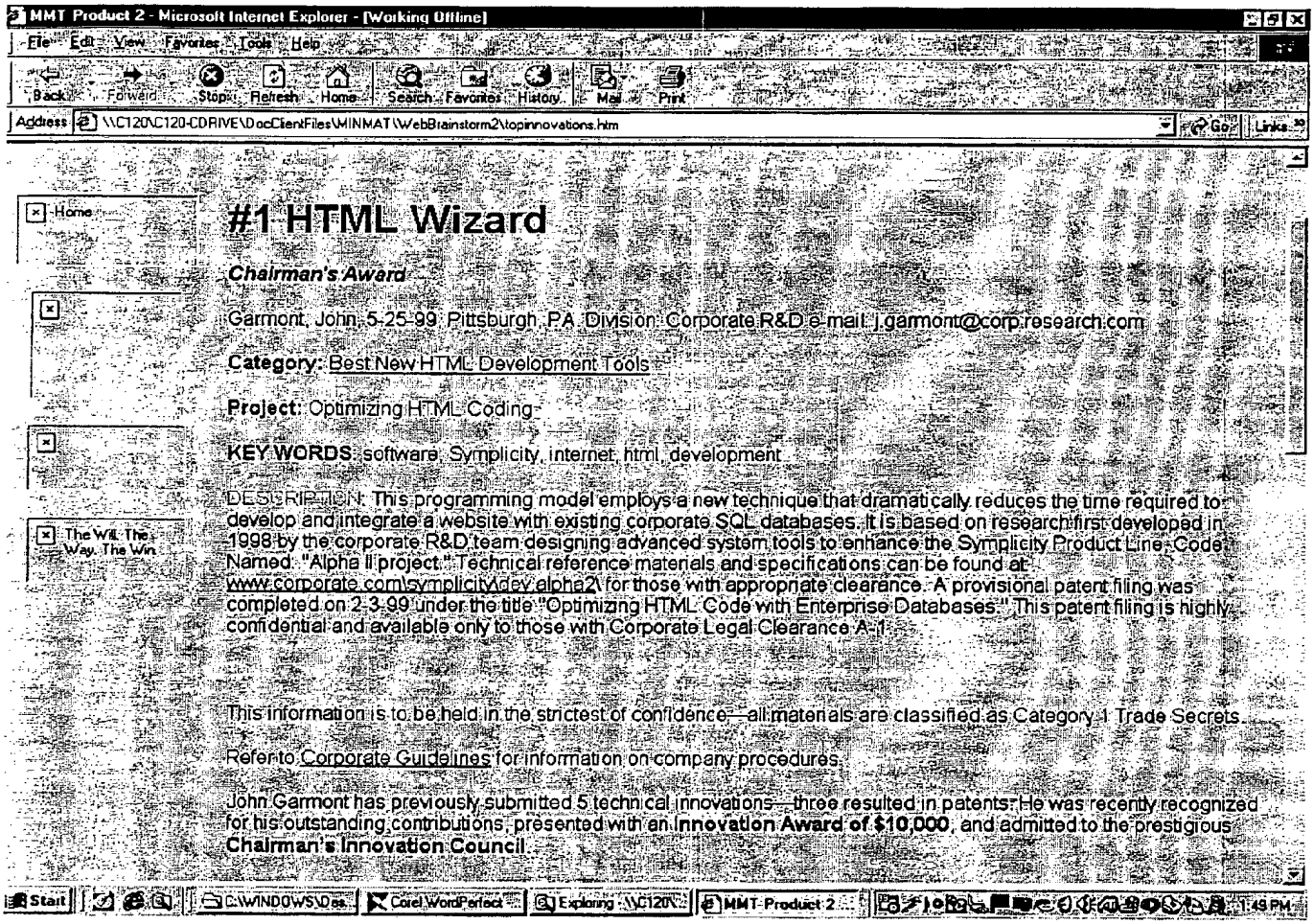
FIGURE 47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#1 HTML Wizard
Chairman's Award
Garmont, John, 5-25-99, Pittsburgh, PA, Division: Corporate R&D, e-mail: j.garmont@corp.research.com
Category: Best New HTML Development Tools
Project: Optimizing HTML Coding
KEY WORDS: software, Symplicity, internet, html, development
DESCRIPTION: This programming model employs a new technique that dramatically reduces the time required to develop and integrate a website with existing corporate SQL databases. It is based on research first developed in 1998 by the corporate R&D team designing advanced system tools to enhance the Symplicity Product Line Code. Named: "Alpha II project." Technical reference materials and specifications can be found at: www.corporate.com\symplicity\dev.alpha2\ for those with appropriate clearance. A provisional patent filing was completed on 2-3-99 under the title "Optimizing HTML Code with Enterprise Databases." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1.
This information is to be held in the strictest of confidence—all materials are classified as Category 1 Trade Secrets.
Refer to Corporate Guidelines for information on company procedures.
John Garmont has previously submitted 5 technical innovations—three resulted in patents. He was recently recognized for his outstanding contributions, presented with an Innovation Award of $10,000, and admitted to the prestigious Chairman's Innovation Council.
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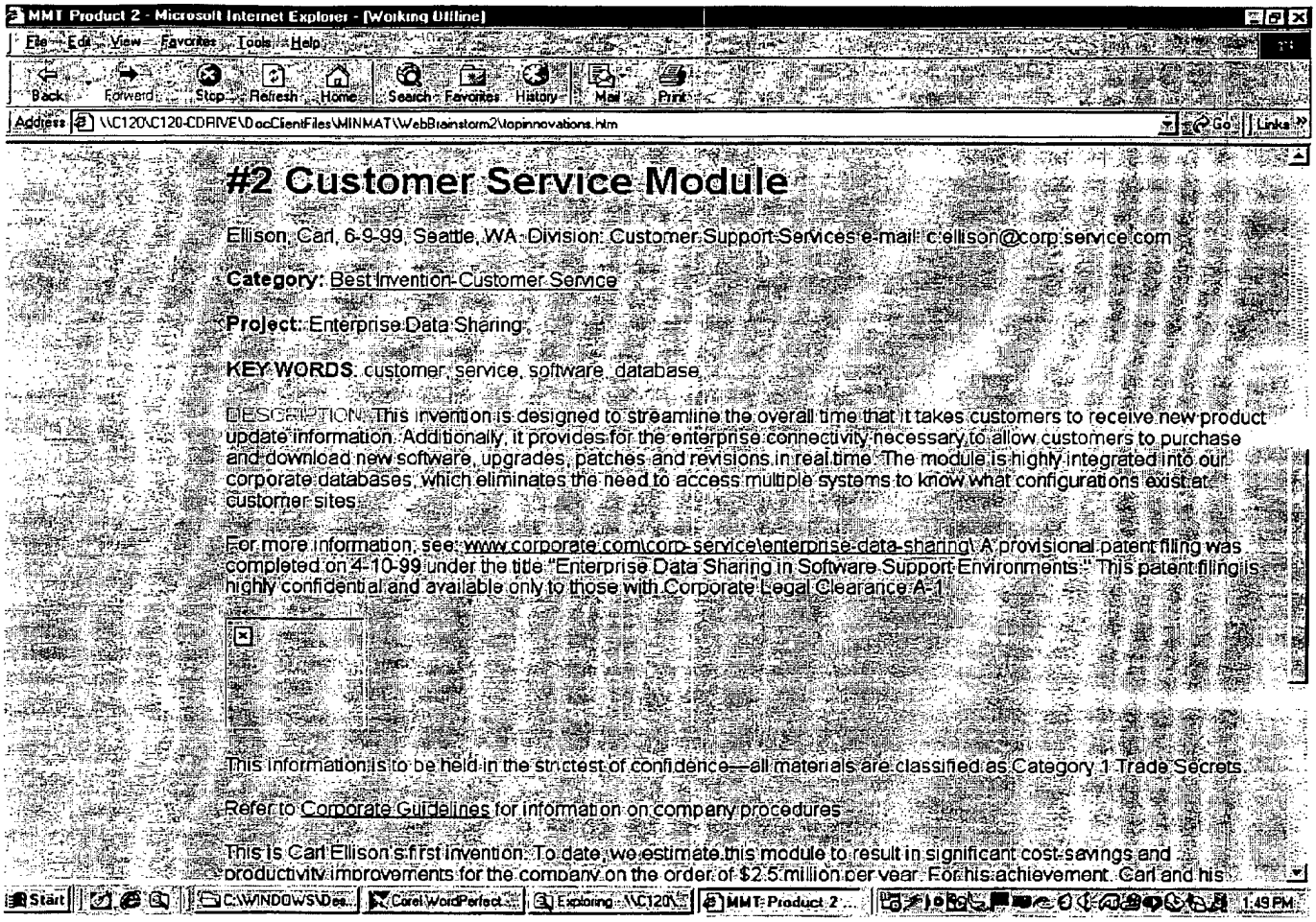
FIGURE 48a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#2 Customer Service Module
Ellison, Carl, 6-9-99, Seattle, WA, Division: Customer Support Services e-mail: c.ellison@corp.service.com
Category: Best Invention-Customer Service
Project: Enterprise Data Sharing
KEY WORDS: customer, service, software, database,
DESCRIPTION: This invention is designed to streamline the overall time that it takes customers to receive new product update information. Additionally, it provides for the enterprise connectivity necessary to allow customers to purchase and download new software, upgrades, patches and revisions in real time. The module is highly integrated into our corporate databases, which eliminates the need to access multiple systems to know what configurations exist at customer sites.
For more information, see: www.corporate.com\corp-service\enterprise-data-sharing\ A provisional patent filing was completed on 4-10-99 under the title "Enterprise Data Sharing in Software Support Environments." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1.
This information is to be held in the strictest of confidence—all materials are classified as Category 1 Trade Secrets.
Refer to Corporate Guidelines for information on company procedures.
This is Carl Ellison's first invention. To date, we estimate this module to result in significant cost-savings and productivity improvements for the company on the order of $2.5 million per year. For his achievement, Carl and his
Start
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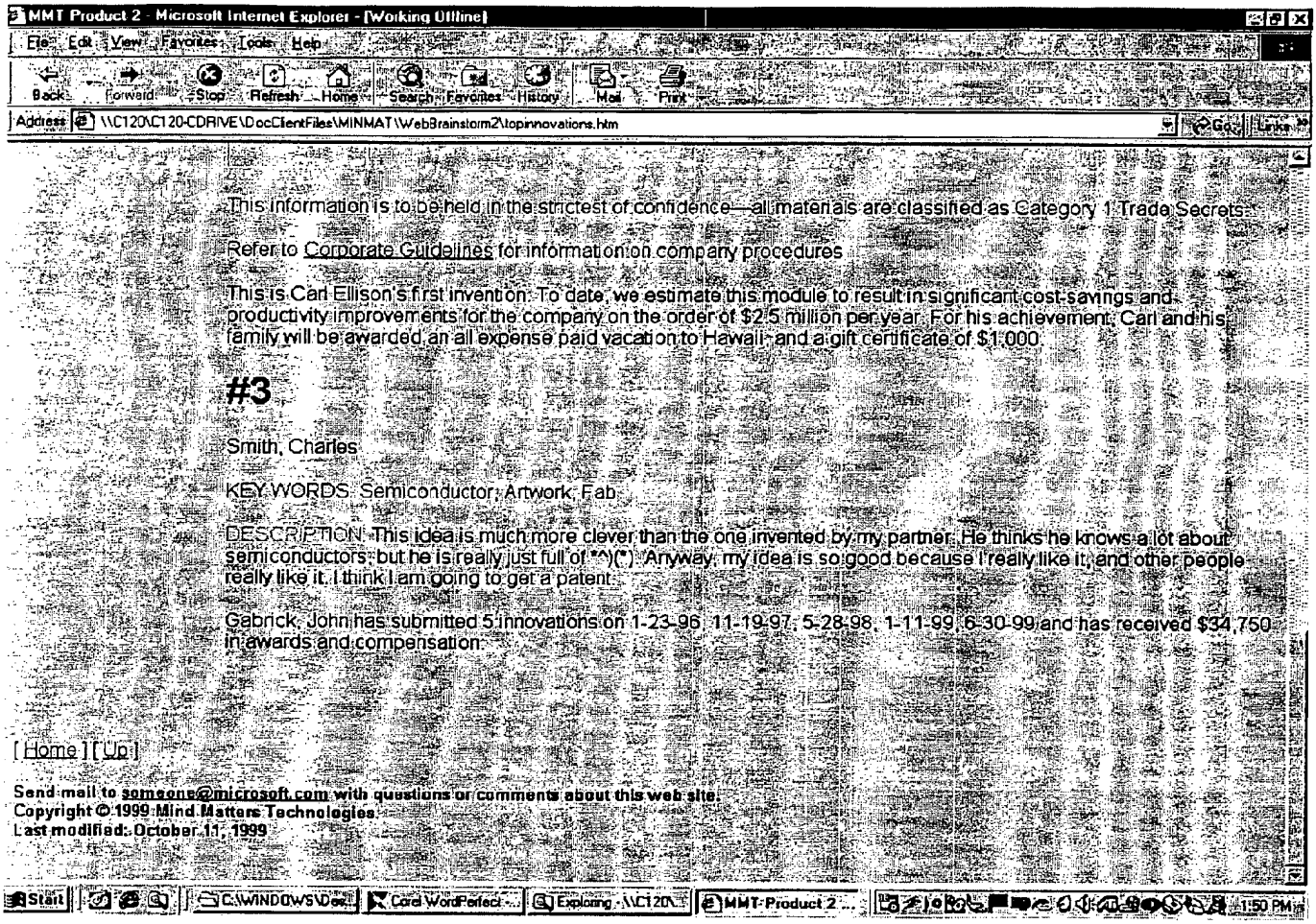
FIGURE 48b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Refer to Corporate Guidelines for information on company procedures
This is Carl Ellison's first invention. To date, we estimate this module to result in significant cost-savings and productivity improvements for the company on the order of $2.5 million per year. For his achievement, Carl and his family will be awarded an all expense paid vacation to Hawaii and a gift certificate of $1,000.
#3
Smith, Charles
KEY WORDS: Semiconductor; Artwork; Fab
DESCRIPTION: This idea is much more clever than the one invented by my partner. He thinks he knows a lot about semiconductors, but he is really just full of *^)(*). Anyway, my idea is so good because I really like it, and other people really like it. I think I am going to get a patent.
Gabrick, John has submitted 5 innovations on 1-23-96, 11-19-97, 5-28-98, 1-11-99, 6-30-99 and has received $34,750 in awards and compensation.
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FIGURE 48c

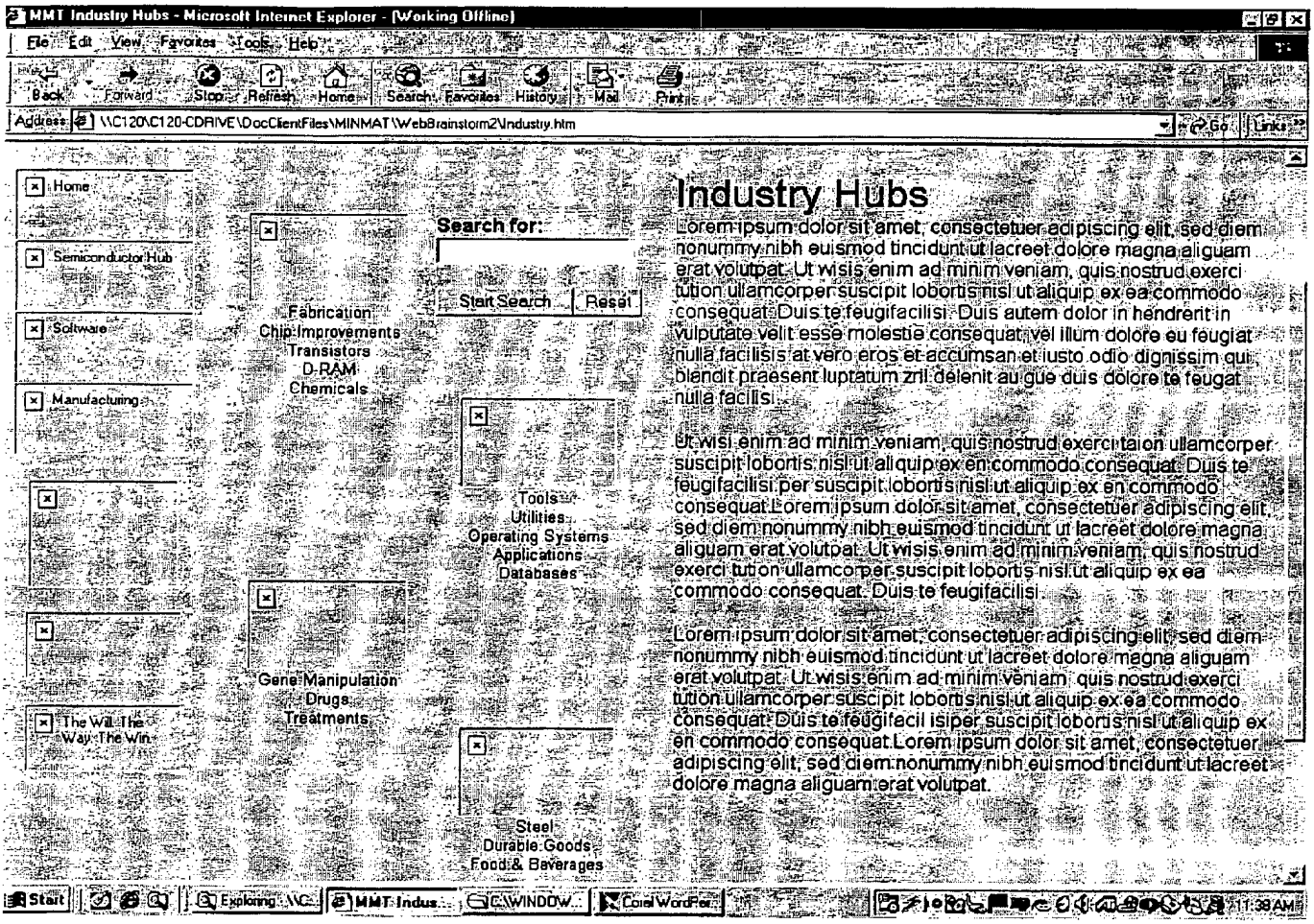
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FIGURE 49

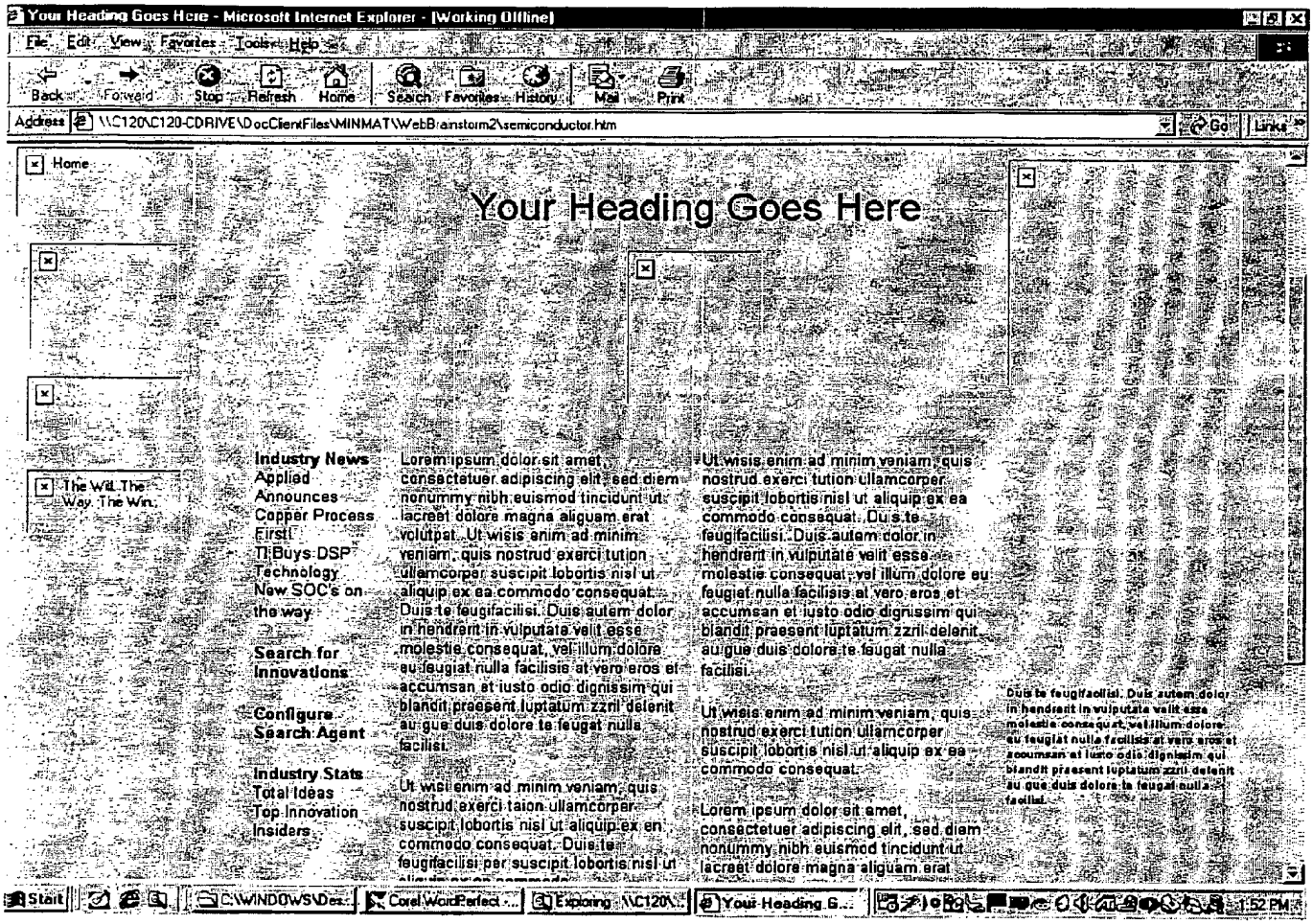
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FIGURE 50

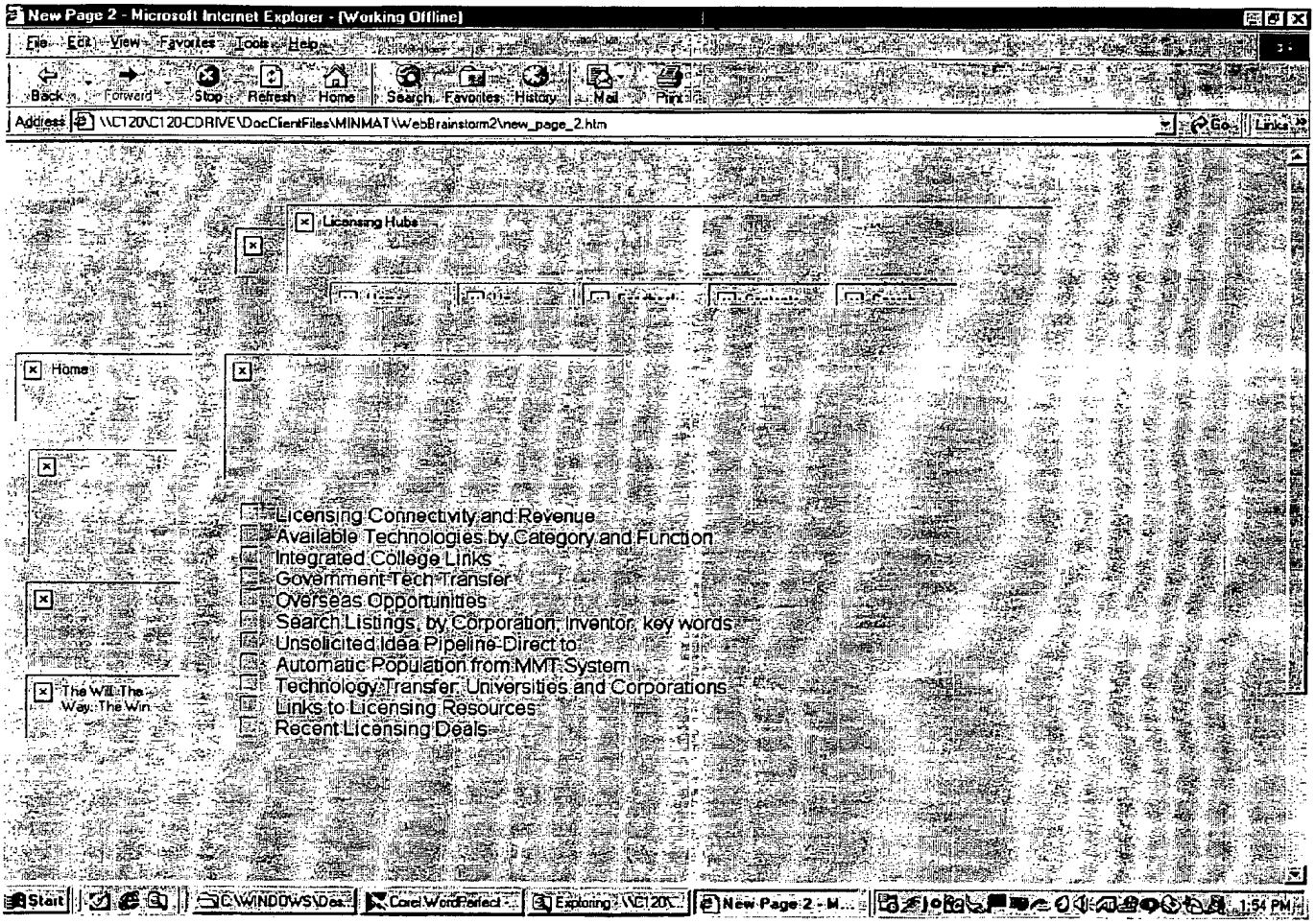
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FIGURE 51

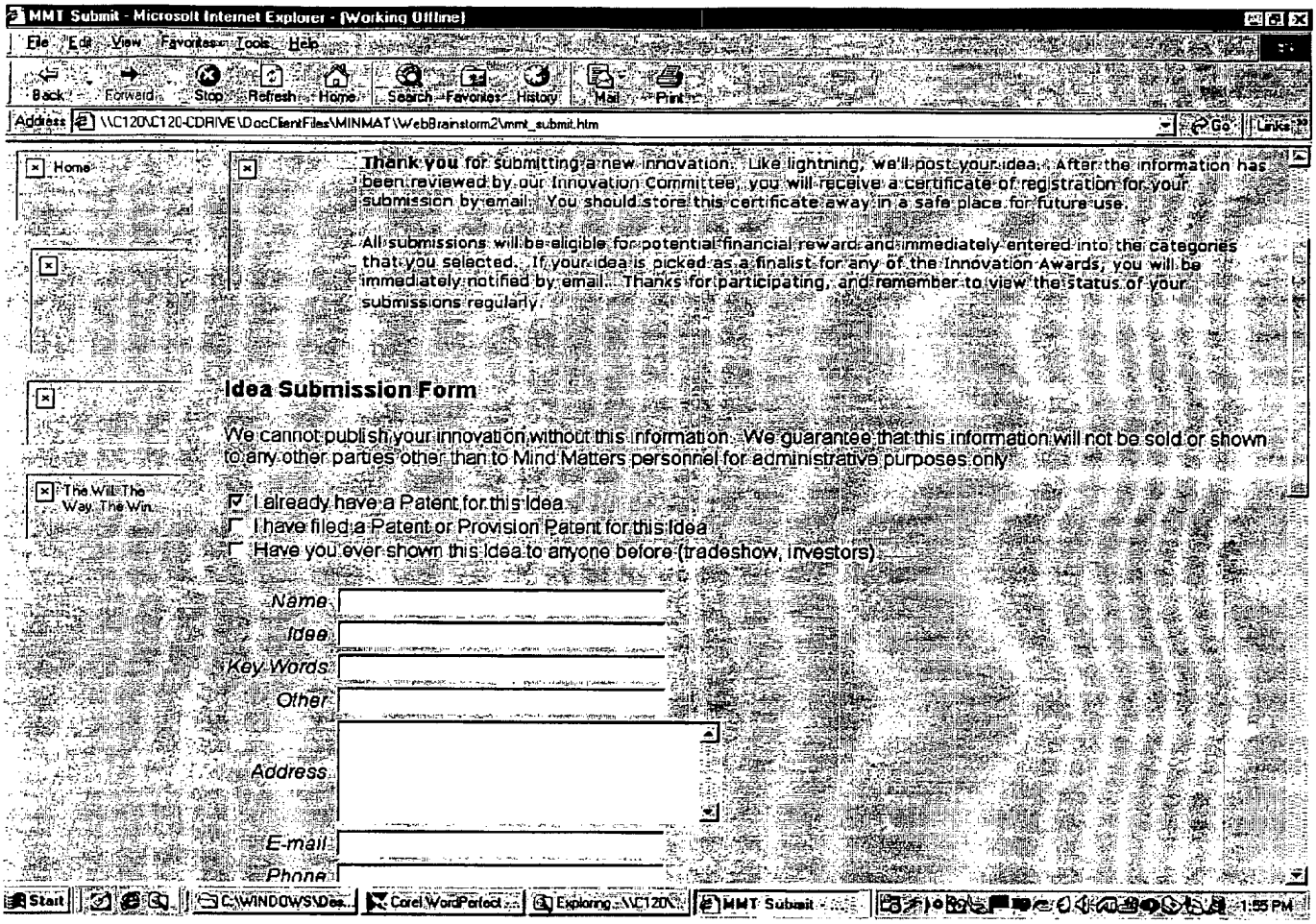
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FIGURE 52a

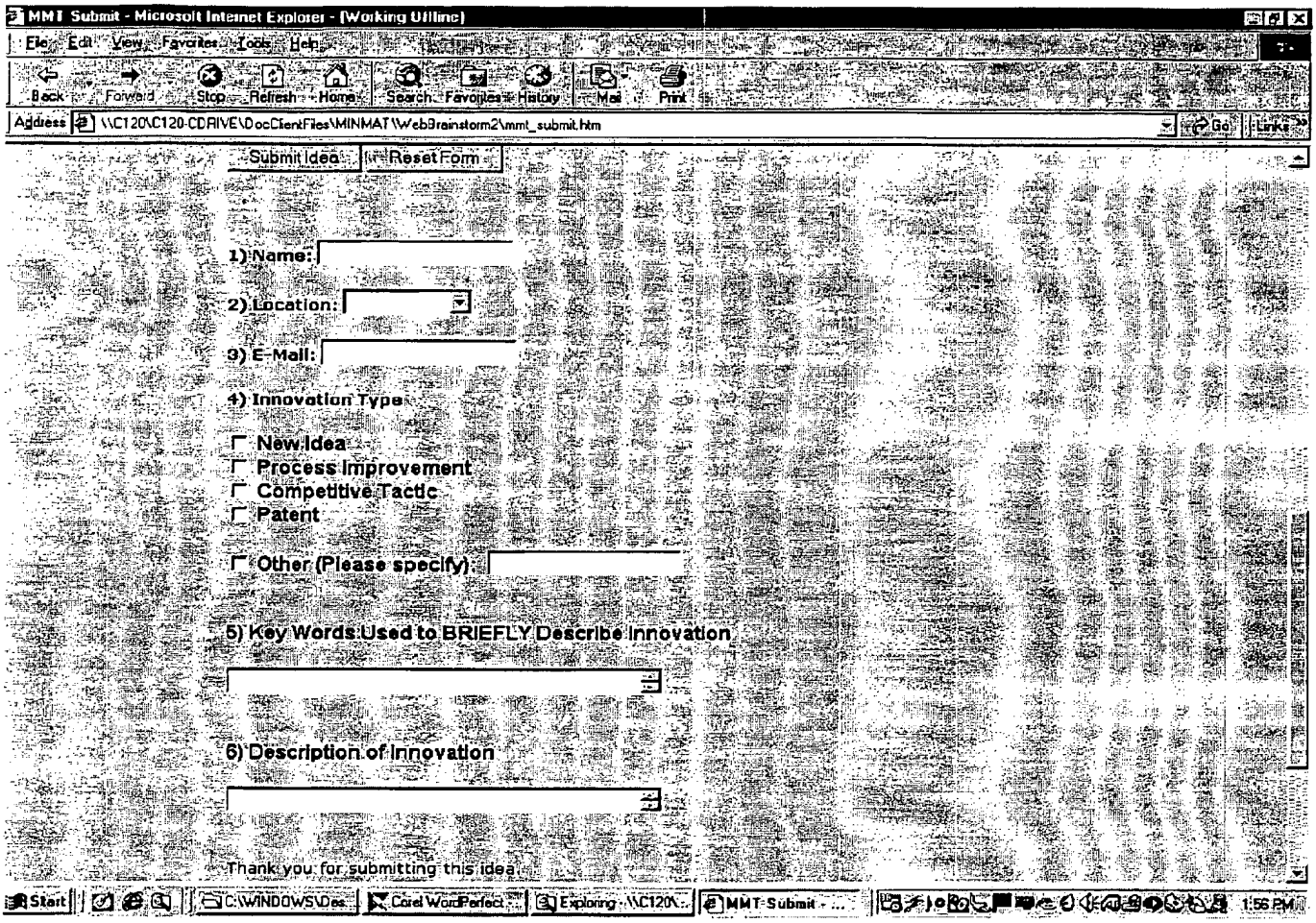
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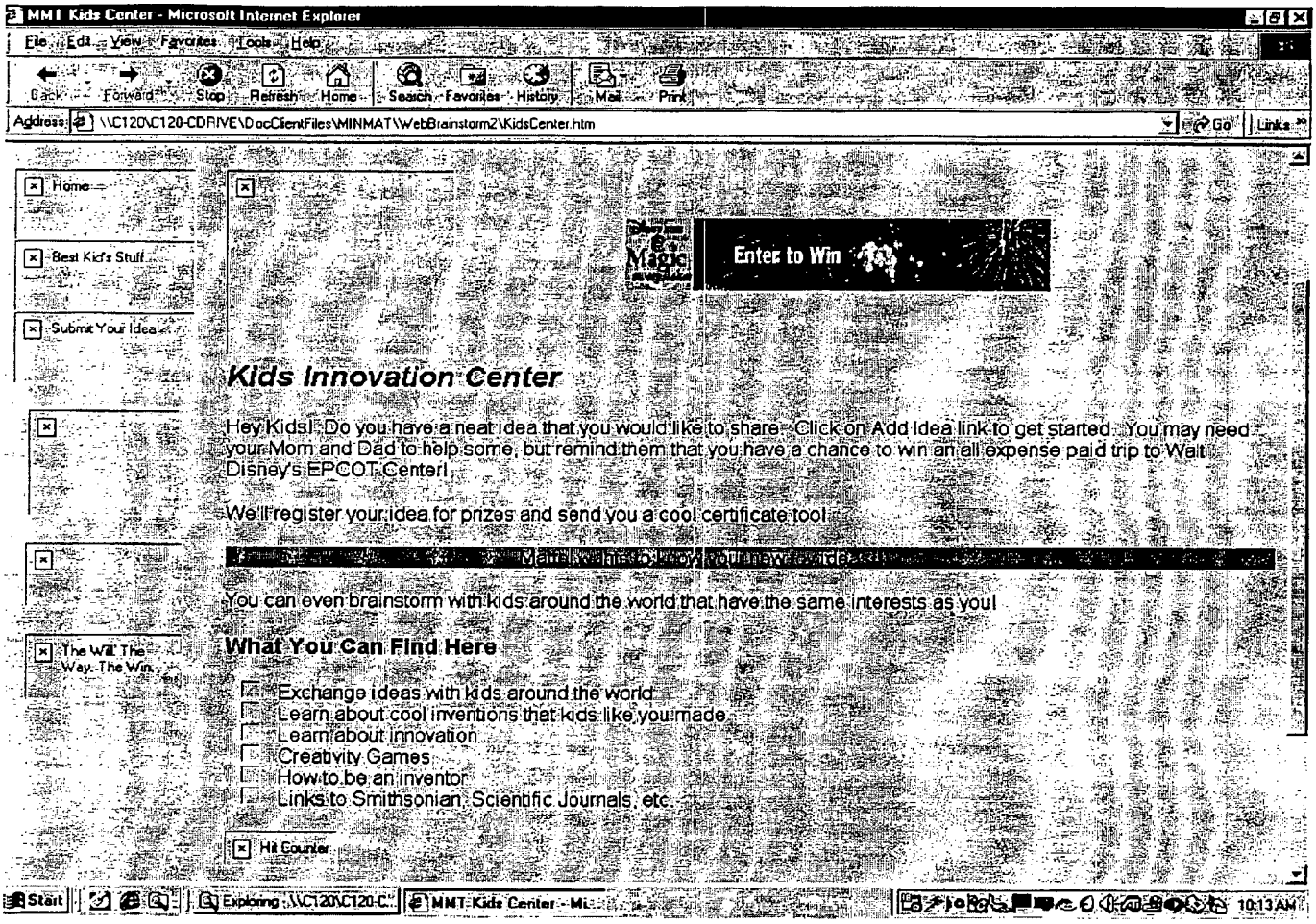
FIGURE 52b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How to be an inventor
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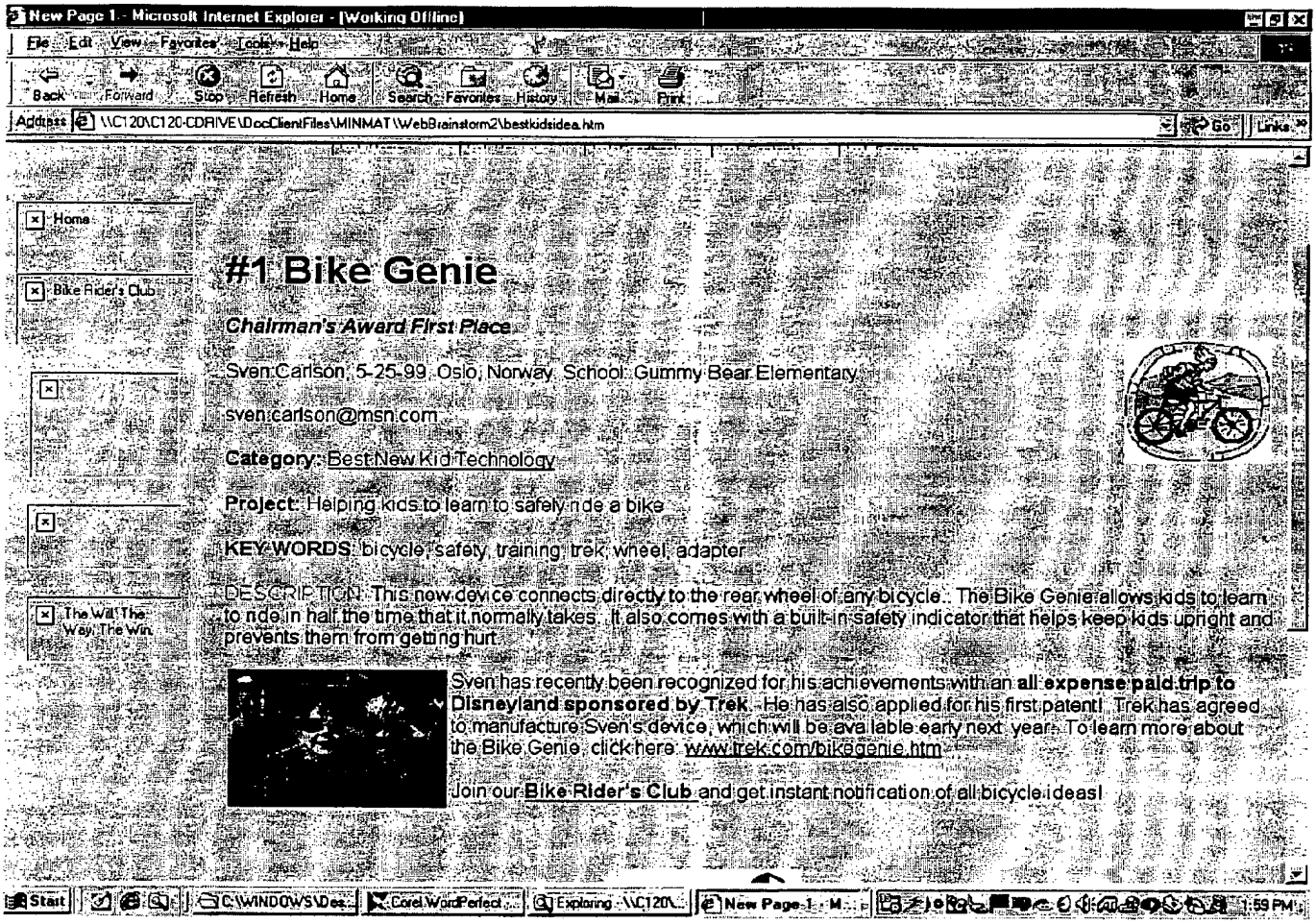
FIGURE 53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Bike Rider's Club
The Will The Way, The Win
#1 Bike Genie
Chairman's Award First Place
Sven Carlson, 5-25-99, Oslo, Norway, School: Gummy Bear Elementary
sven.carlson@msn.com
Category: Best New Kid Technology
Project: Helping kids to learn to safely ride a bike
KEY WORDS: bicycle, safety, training, trek, wheel, adapter
DESCRIPTION: This new device connects directly to the rear wheel of any bicycle. The Bike Genie allows kids to learn to ride in half the time that it normally takes. It also comes with a built-in safety indicator that helps keep kids upright and prevents them from getting hurt.
Sven has recently been recognized for his achievements with an all expense paid trip to Disneyland sponsored by Trek. He has also applied for his first patent! Trek has agreed to manufacture Sven's device, which will be available early next year. To learn more about the Bike Genie, click here: www.trek.com/bikegenie.htm
Join our Bike Rider's Club and get instant notification of all bicycle ideas!
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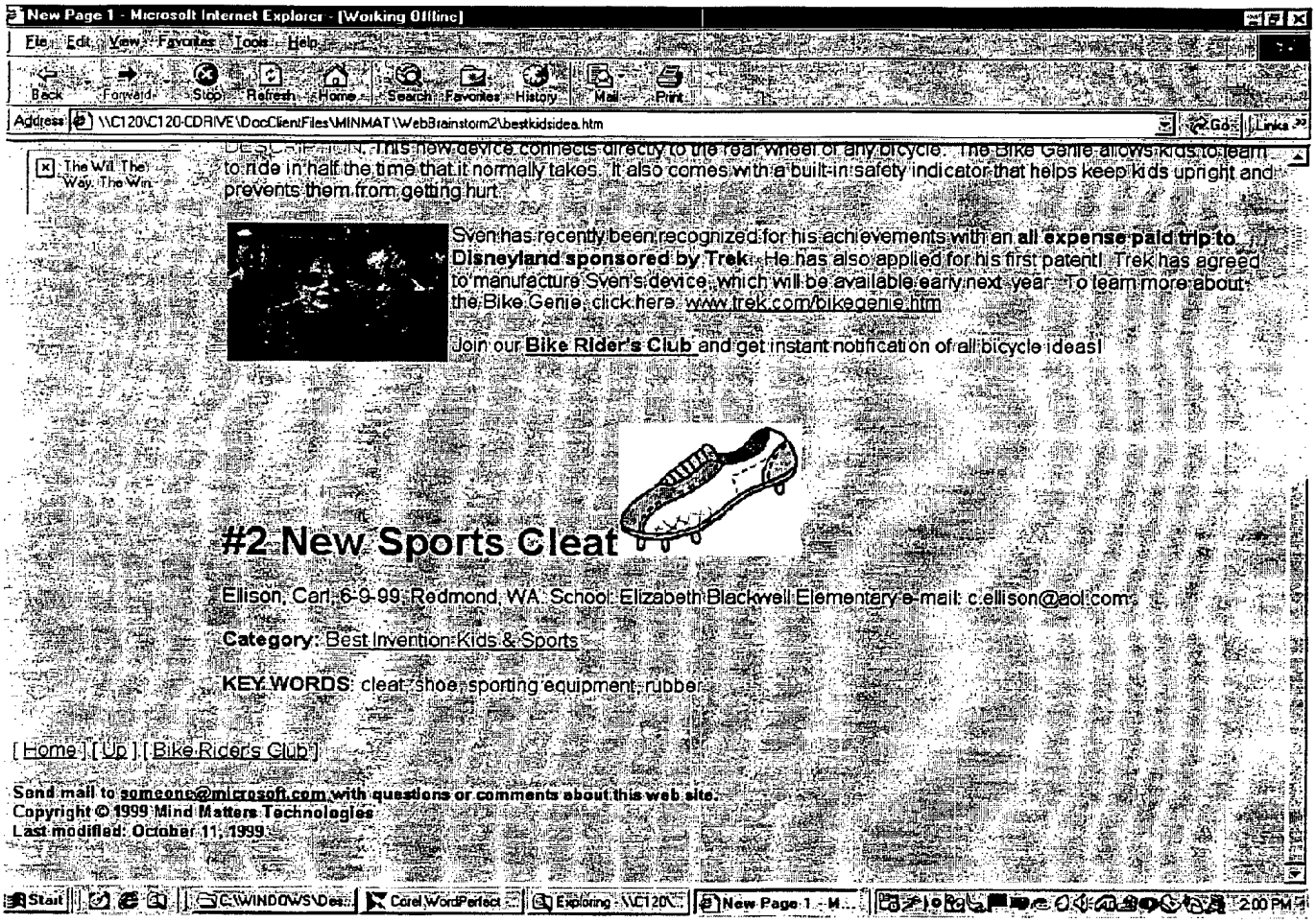
FIGURE 54a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The Will The Way. The Win
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Sven has recently been recognized for his achievements with an all expense paid trip to Disneyland sponsored by Trek. He has also applied for his first patent! Trek has agreed to manufacture Sven's device, which will be available early next year. To learn more about the Bike Genie, click here www.trek.com/bikegenie.htm
Join our Bike Rider's Club and get instant notification of all bicycle ideas!
#2 New Sports Cleat
Ellison, Carl; 6-9-99; Redmond, WA; School: Elizabeth Blackwell Elementery e-mail: c.ellison@aol.com
Category: Best Invention:Kids & Sports
KEY WORDS: cleat; shoe; sporting equipment; rubber
[Home] [Up] [Bike Rider's Club]
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FIGURE 54b

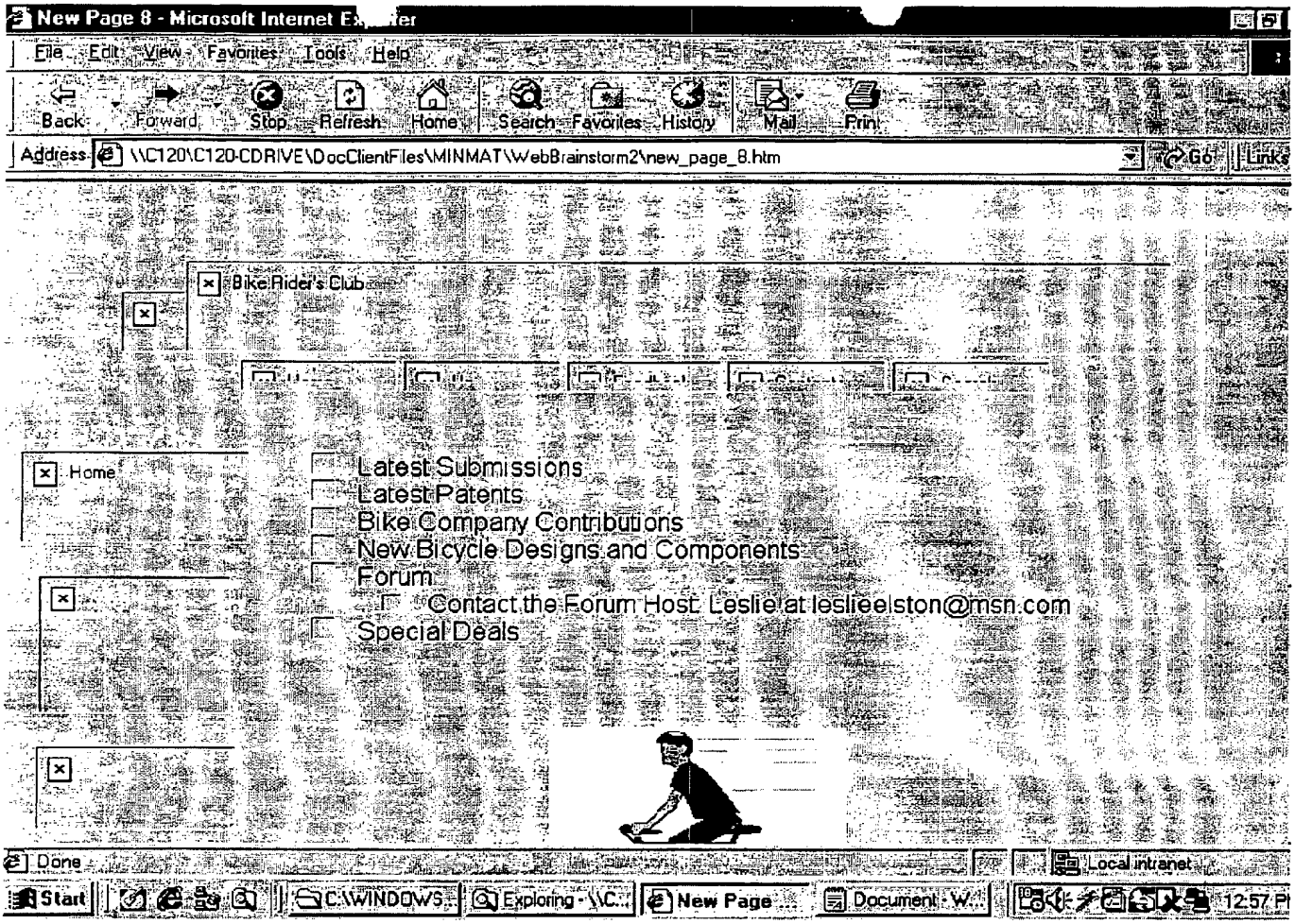
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FIGURE 55

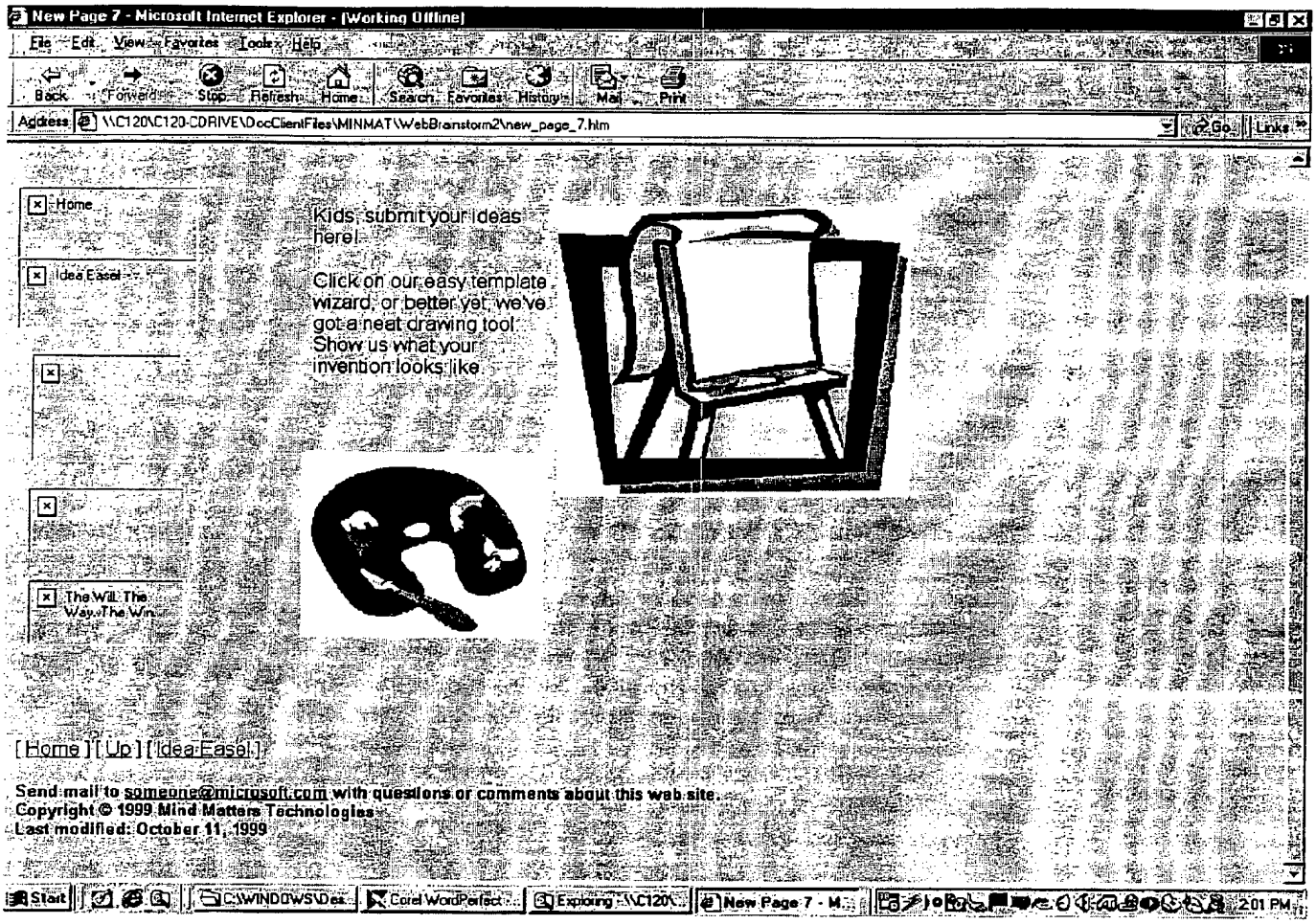
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FIGURE 56

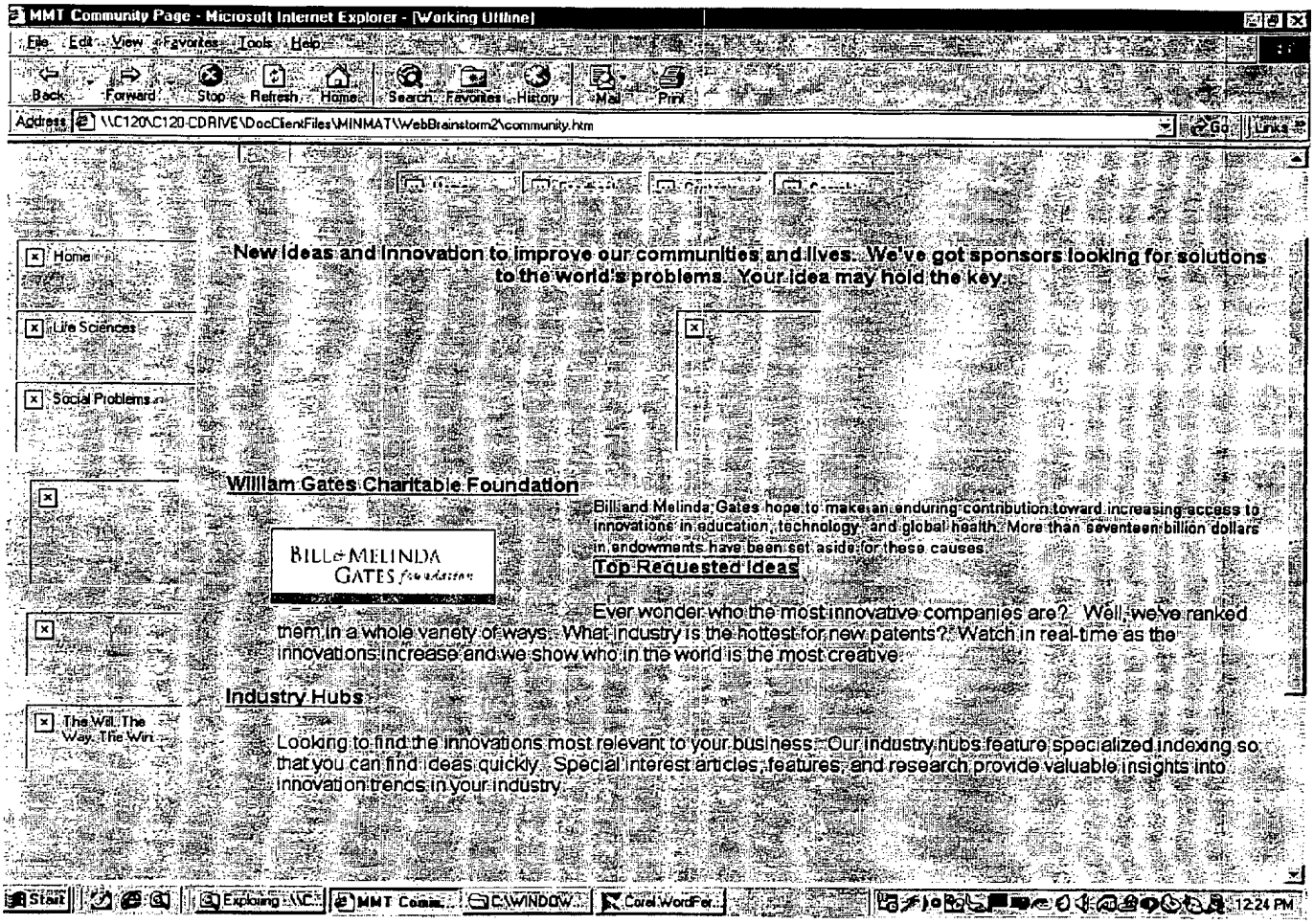
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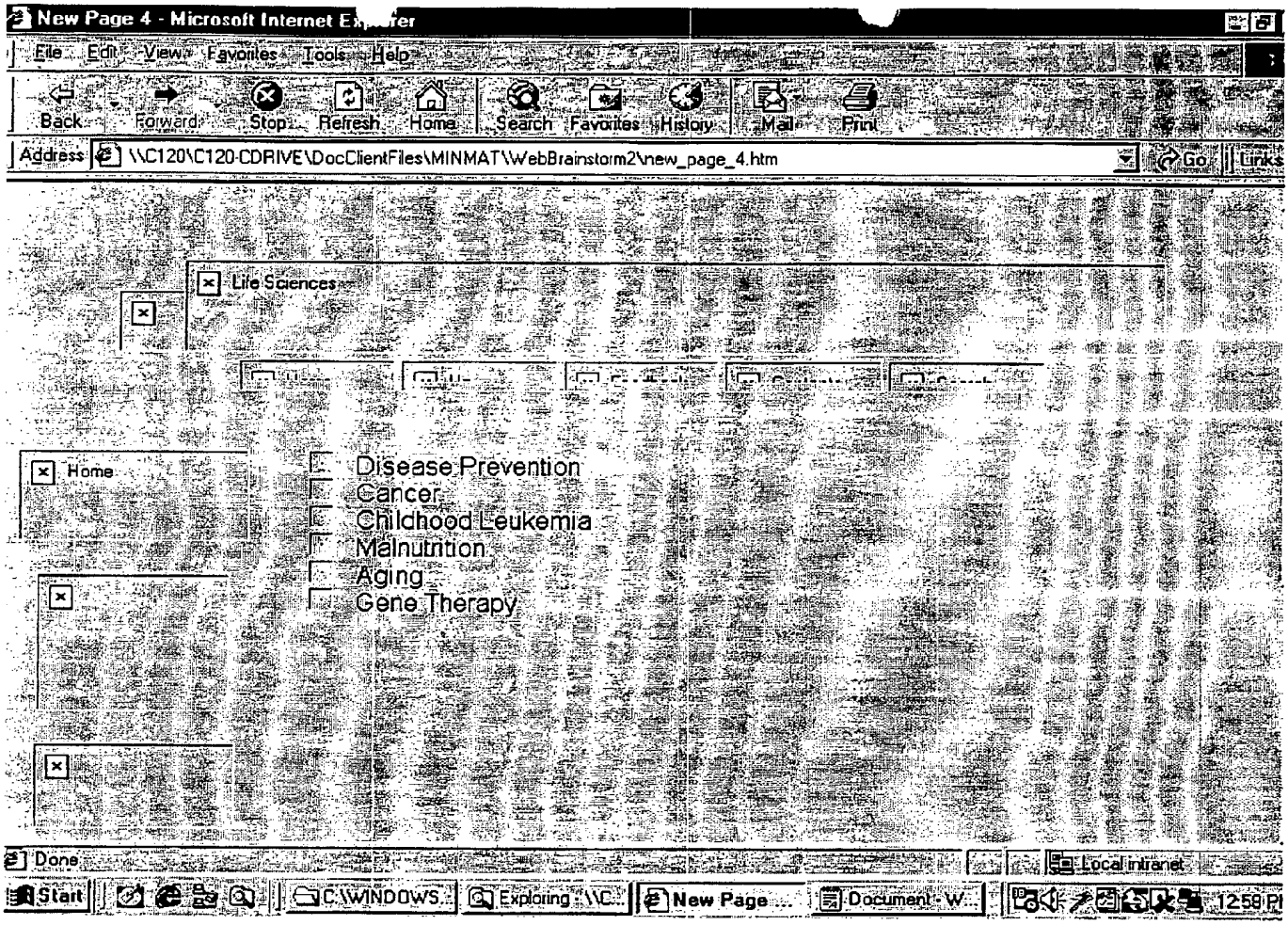
FIGURE 57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Aging
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FIGURE 58

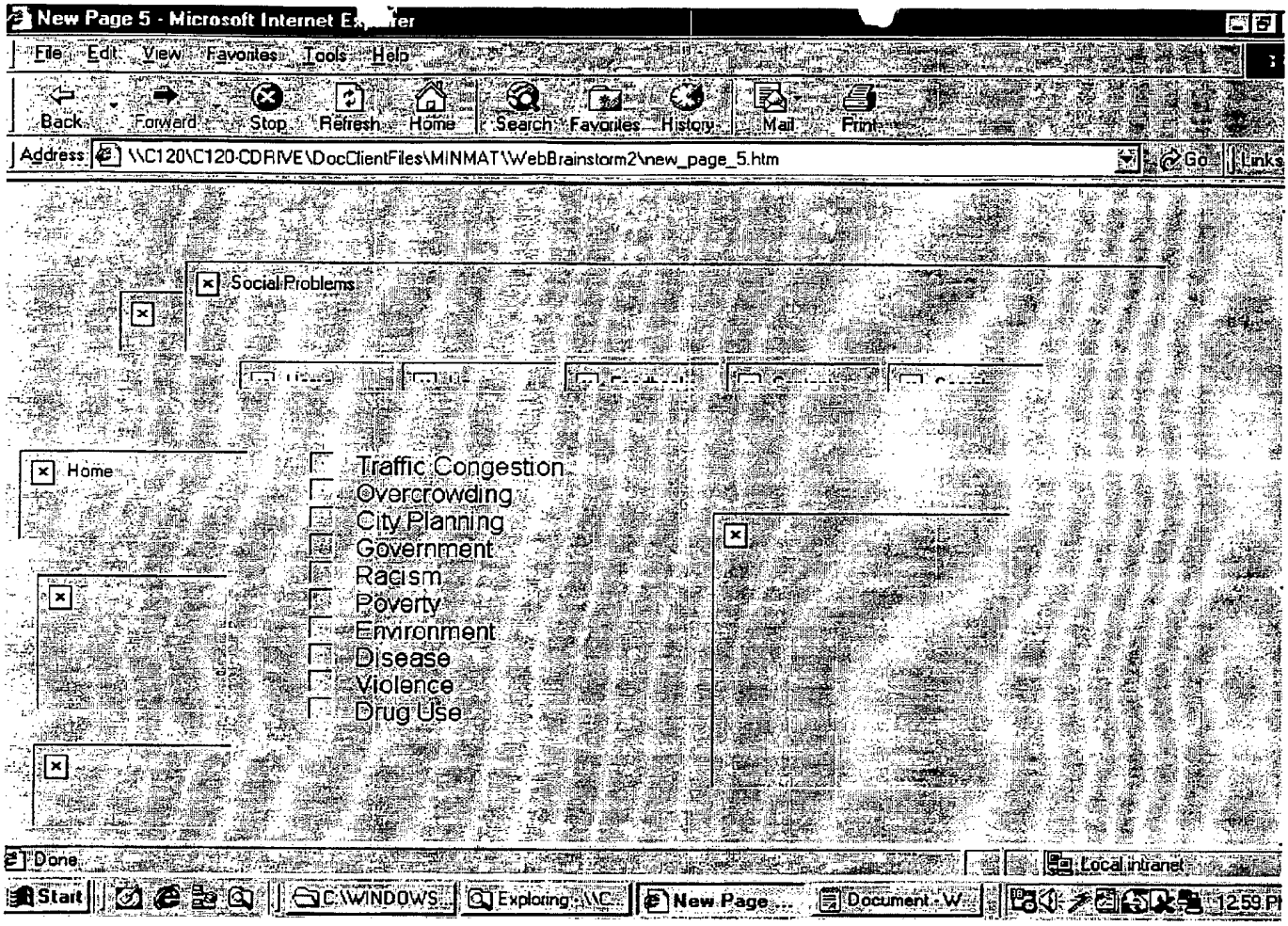
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FIGURE 59

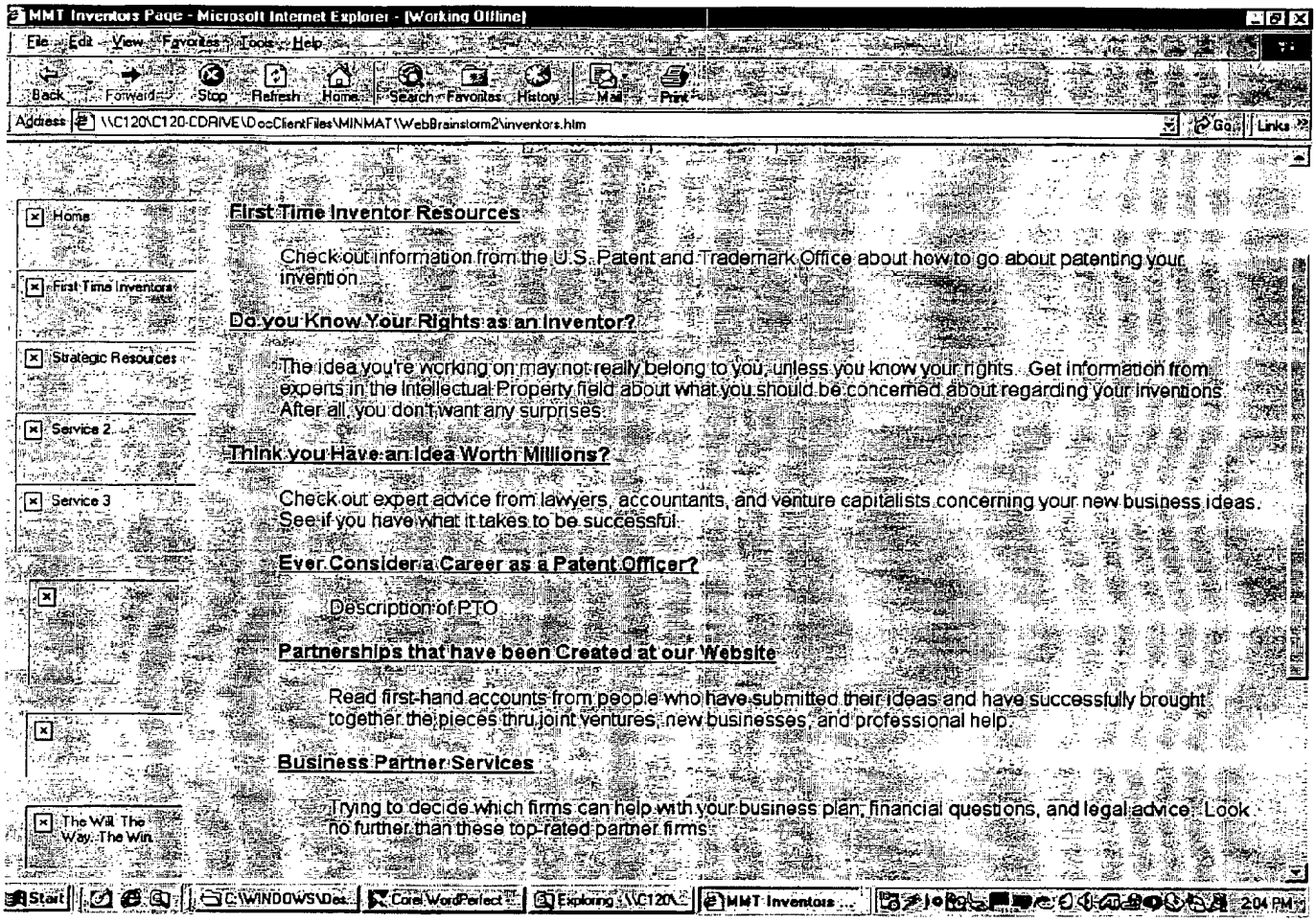
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FIGURE 60

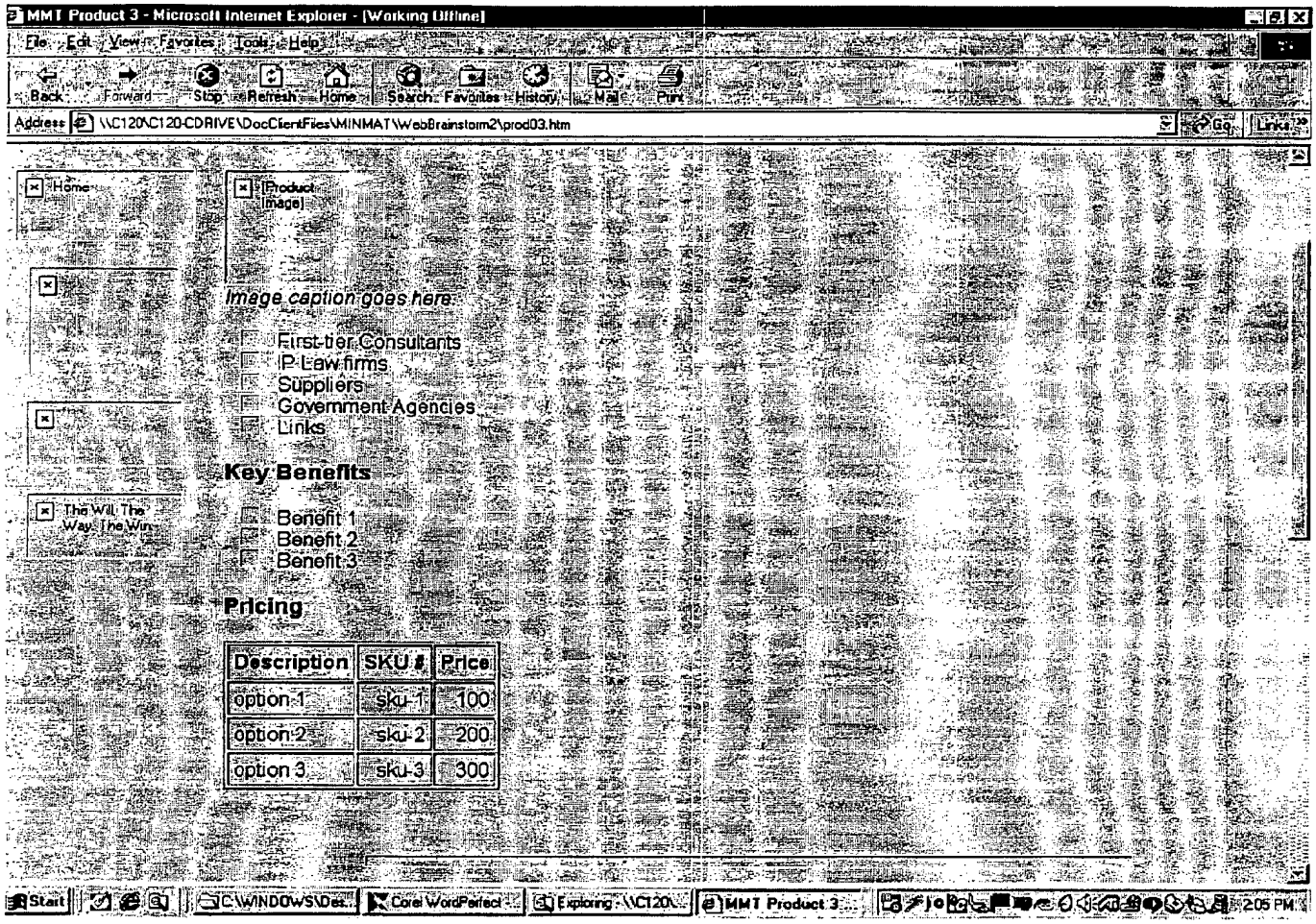
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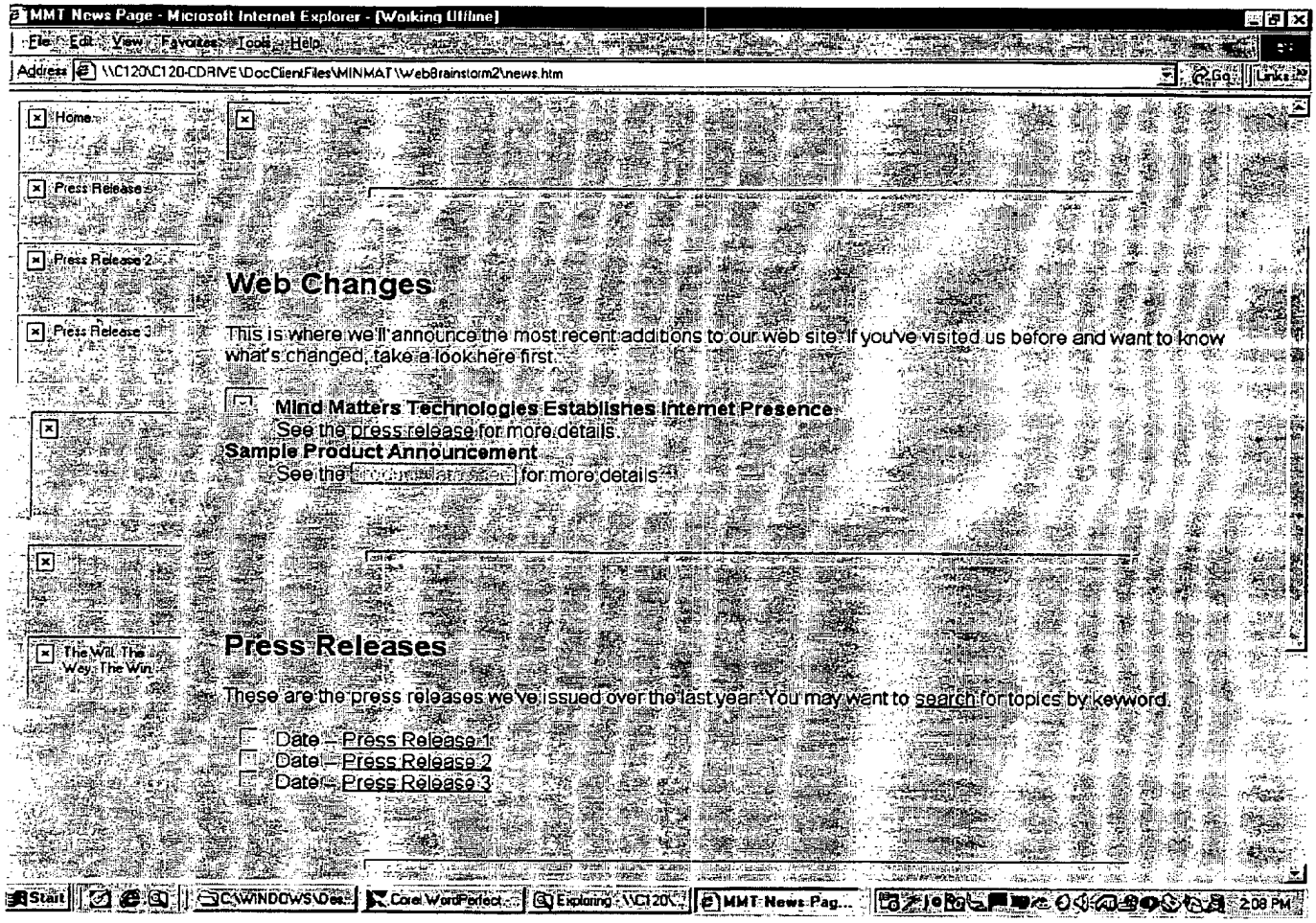
FIGURE 61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Date - Press Release 3
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FIGURE 62a

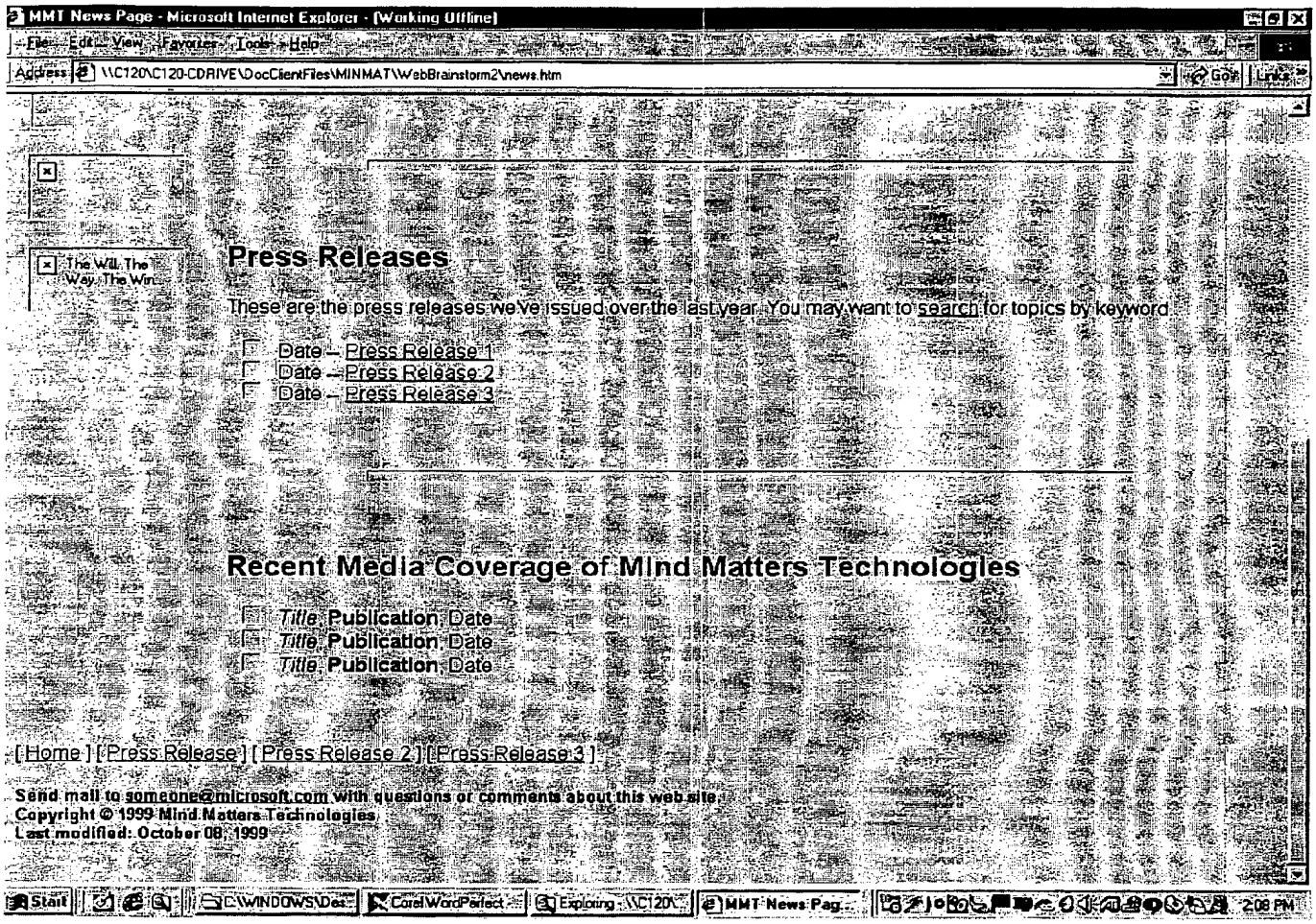
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FIGURE 62b

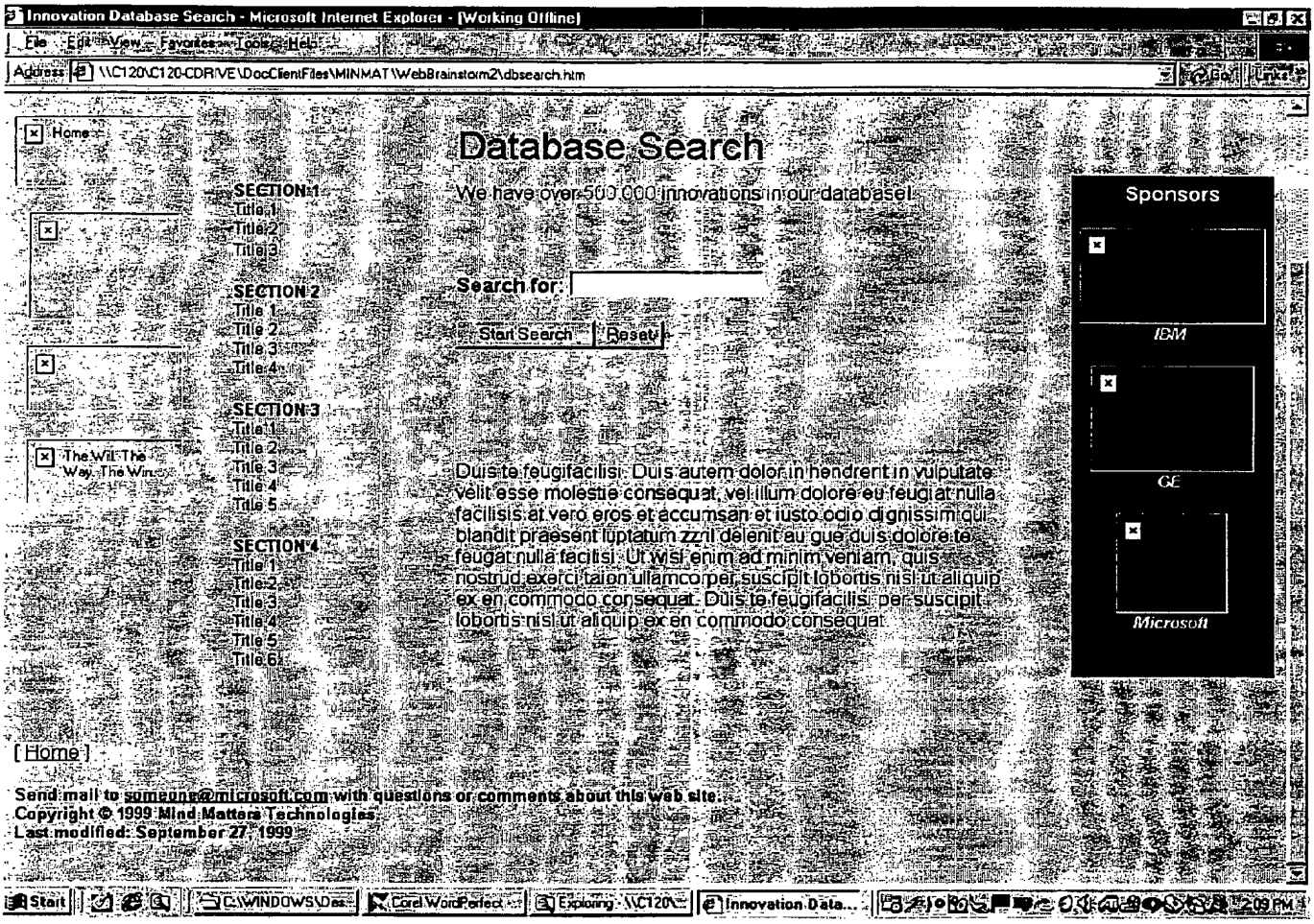
Innovation Database Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address \\C120\C120-CDR\VE\DocClientFiles\MINMAT\WebBrainstorm2\dbsearch.htm
Home
SECTION 1
Title 1
Title 2
Title 3
SECTION 2
Title 1
Title 2
Title 3
Title 4
SECTION 3
Title 1
Title 2
Title 3
Title 4
Title 5
SECTION 4
Title 1
Title 2
Title 3
Title 4
Title 5
Title 6
The Will The Way, The Win
[Home]
Send mail to someone@microsoft.com with questions or comments about this web site.
Copyright © 1999 Mind Matters Technologies
Last modified: September 27, 1999
Database Search
We have over 500,000 innovations in our database!
Search for:
Start Search
Reset
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FIGURE 63

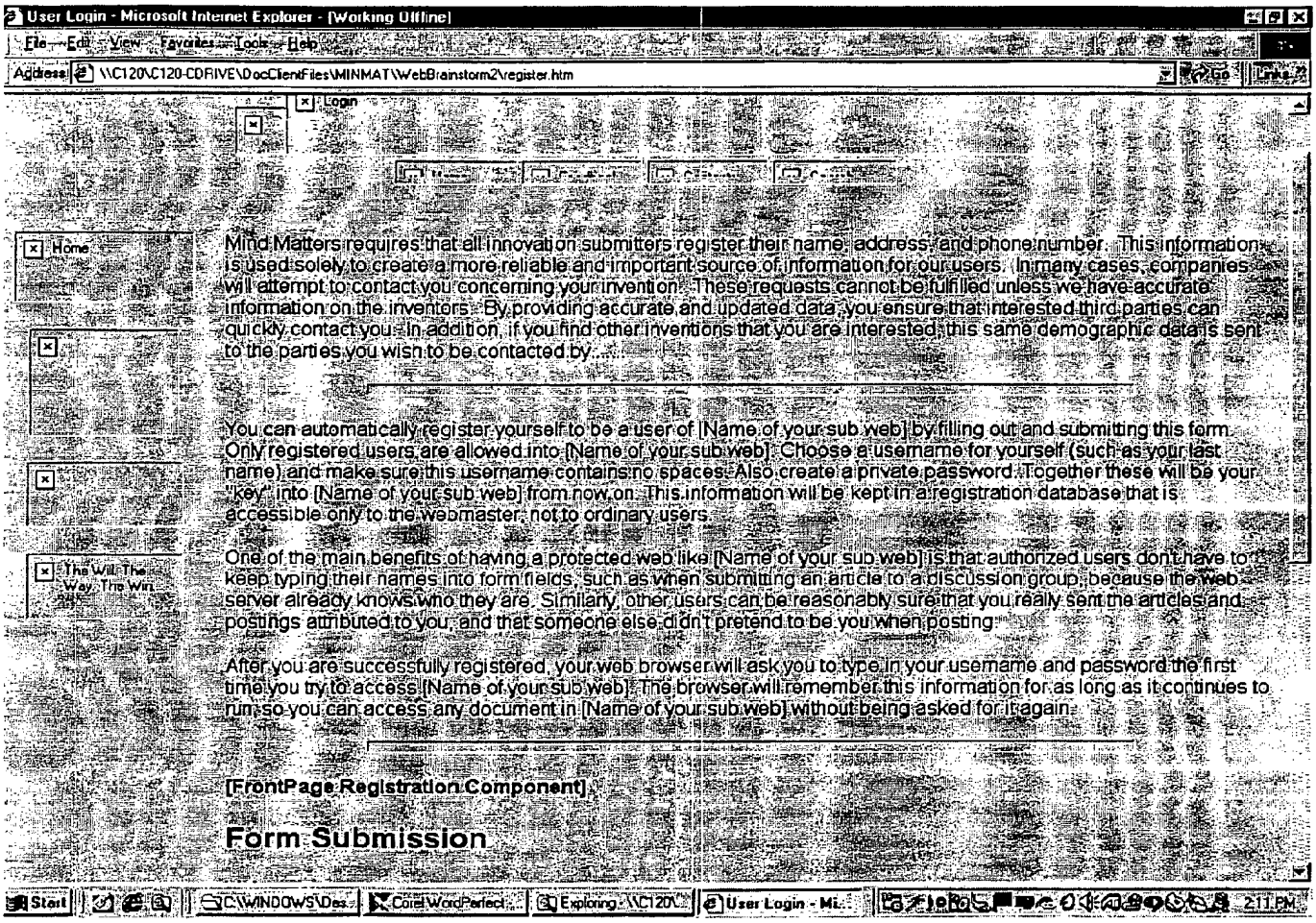
User Login - Microsoft Internet Explorer - [Working Offline]
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Address \\C120\C120-CDRIVE\DocClientFiles\MINMAT\WebBrainstorm2\register.htm
Go
Links
Login
Home
Mind Matters requires that all innovation submitters register their name, address, and phone number. This information is used solely to create a more reliable and important source of information for our users. In many cases, companies will attempt to contact you concerning your invention. These requests cannot be fulfilled unless we have accurate information on the inventors. By providing accurate and updated data, you ensure that interested third parties can quickly contact you. In addition, if you find other inventions that you are interested, this same demographic data is sent to the parties you wish to be contacted by....
You can automatically register yourself to be a user of [Name of your sub web] by filling out and submitting this form. Only registered users are allowed into [Name of your sub web]. Choose a username for yourself (such as your last name) and make sure this username contains no spaces. Also create a private password. Together these will be your "key" into [Name of your sub web] from now on. This information will be kept in a registration database that is accessible only to the webmaster, not to ordinary users.
One of the main benefits of having a protected web like [Name of your sub web] is that authorized users don't have to keep typing their names into form fields, such as when submitting an article to a discussion group, because the web server already knows who they are. Similarly, other users can be reasonably sure that you really sent the articles and postings attributed to you, and that someone else didn't pretend to be you when posting.
After you are successfully registered, your web browser will ask you to type in your username and password the first time you try to access [Name of your sub web]. The browser will remember this information for as long as it continues to run, so you can access any document in [Name of your sub web] without being asked for it again.
[FrontPage Registration Component]
Form Submission
Start
C:\WINDOWS\Des...
CorelWordPerfect...
Exploring - \\C120\...
User Login - Mi...
2:17 PM

FIGURE 64

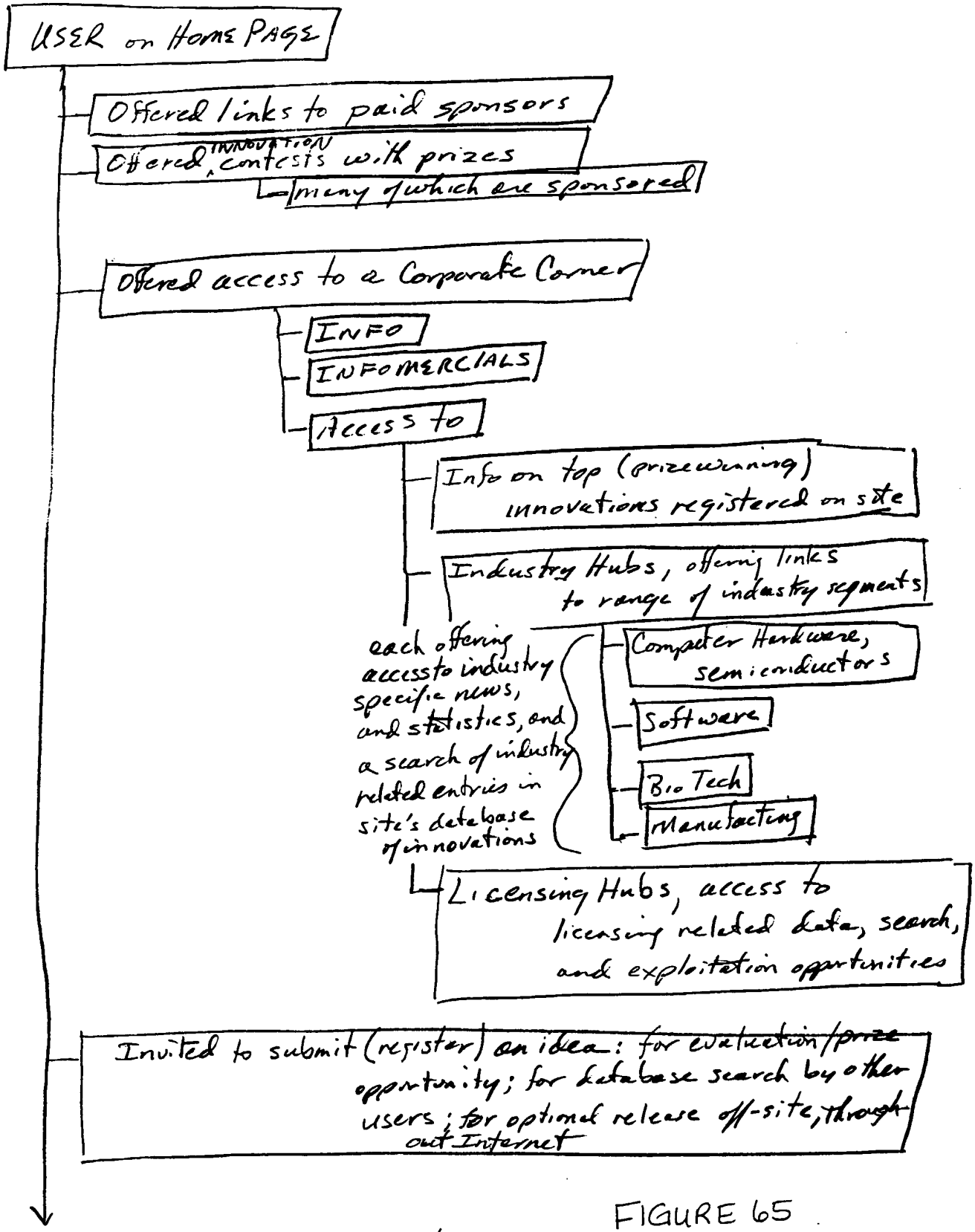
USER on HOME PAGE
Offered links to paid sponsors
Offered INNOVATION contests with prizes
many of which are sponsored
Offered access to a Corporate Corner
INFO
INFOMERCIALS
Access to
Info on top (prizewinning) innovations registered on site
Industry Hubs, offering links to range of industry segments
each offering access to industry specific news, and statistics, and a search of industry related entries in site's database of innovations
Computer Hardware, semiconductors
Software
Bio Tech
Manufacturing
Licensing Hubs, access to licensing related data, search, and exploitation opportunities
Invited to submit (register) an idea: for evaluation/prize opportunity; for database search by other users; for optional release off-site, throughout Internet

FIGURE 65

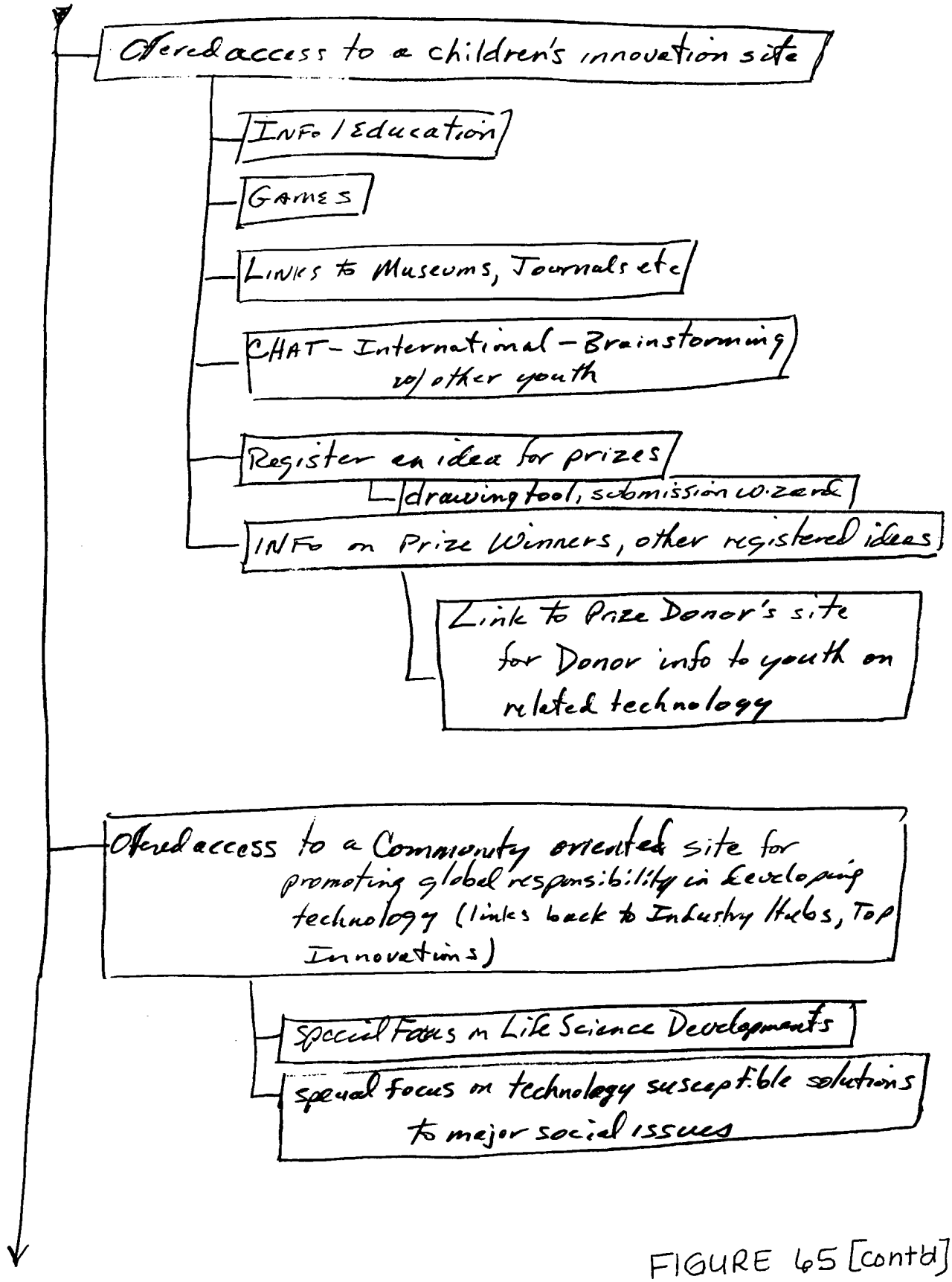

FIGURE 65 [cont'd]

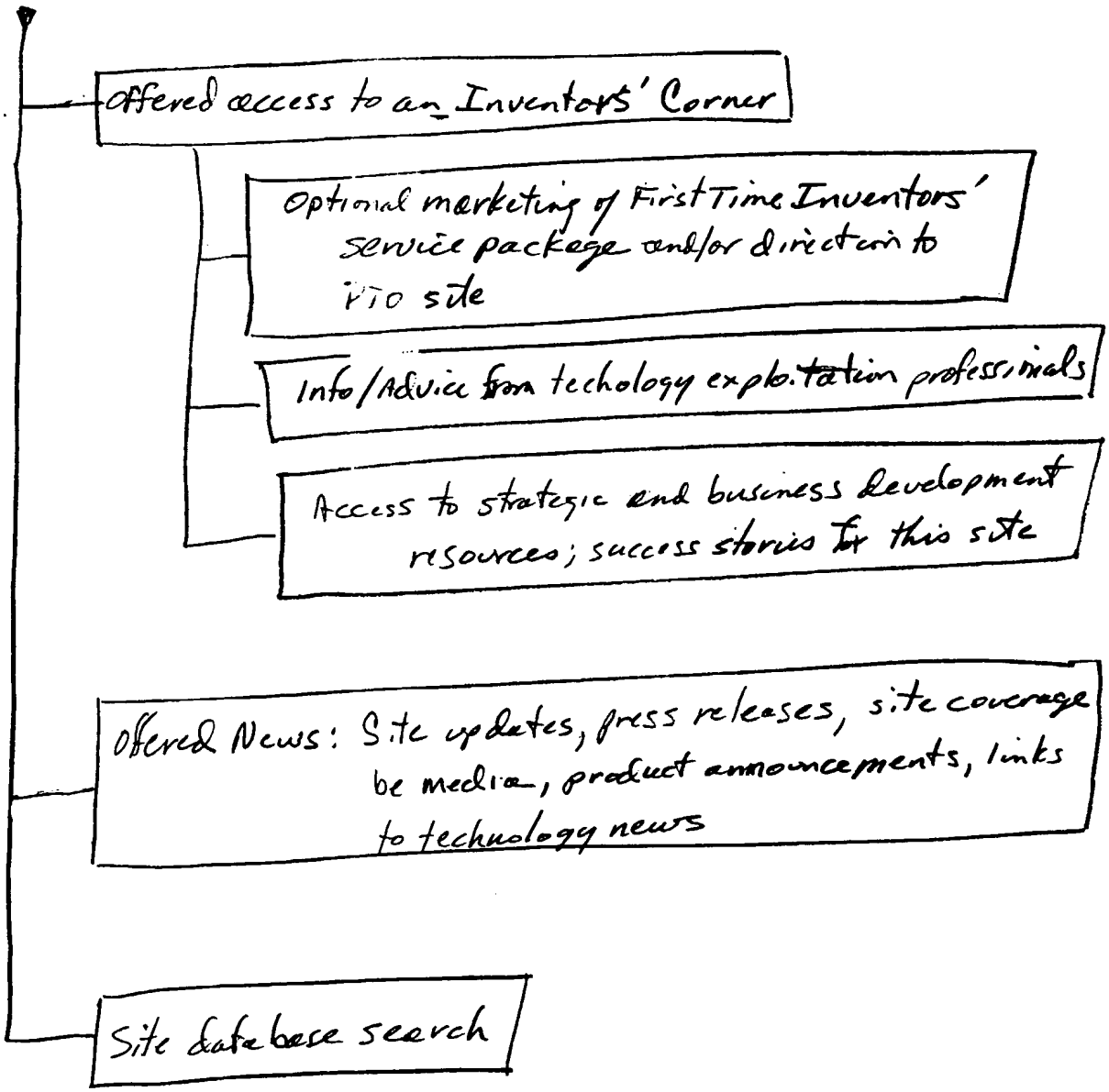

FIGURE 65[cont'd]

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/30868

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G06F 17/30
US CL :707/1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 707/1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 102, 104, 200

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CAS Online, West, East

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,251,294 A [ABELOW] 05 OCTOBER 1993, SEE FIG. 3.	8-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 16 DECEMBER 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report 21 MAR 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer SANJIV SHAH Telephone No. (703) 305-8355

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)★

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/30868

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
8-18

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/30868

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING
This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s)1, 3, 5-7, drawn to a system for summarizing company innovations.
Group II, claim(s) 2, drawn to a system for streamlining the process.
Group III, claim(s) 8-18, drawn to a system for web based development and exploitation of IP.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The inventions are independant because Group III comprises a special technical feature of innovator module, developer module, match module and registration modules which is not required by group II and I. Similarly Group II comprises a special technical features of streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets which is not required by group I and III.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
17 May 2001 (17.05.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/35277 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 17/30

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10 November 2000 (10.11.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/165,140	12 November 1999 (12.11.1999)	US
09/687,510	12 October 2000 (12.10.2000)	US
09/706,513	3 November 2000 (03.11.2000)	US

(71) Applicant: **MINDMATTERS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** [US/US]; 2737 226th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98053 (US).

(72) Inventors: **GABRICK, John, J.**; 824 White Oak Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15228 (US). **ELSTON, Cassius, A., Jr.**; 2737 226th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98053 (US).

(74) Agent: **DWYER, Patrick, M.**; Mindmatters Technologies, Inc., Suite 114, 1818 Westlake Avenue N, Seattle, WA 98109 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: CA, CN, JP.

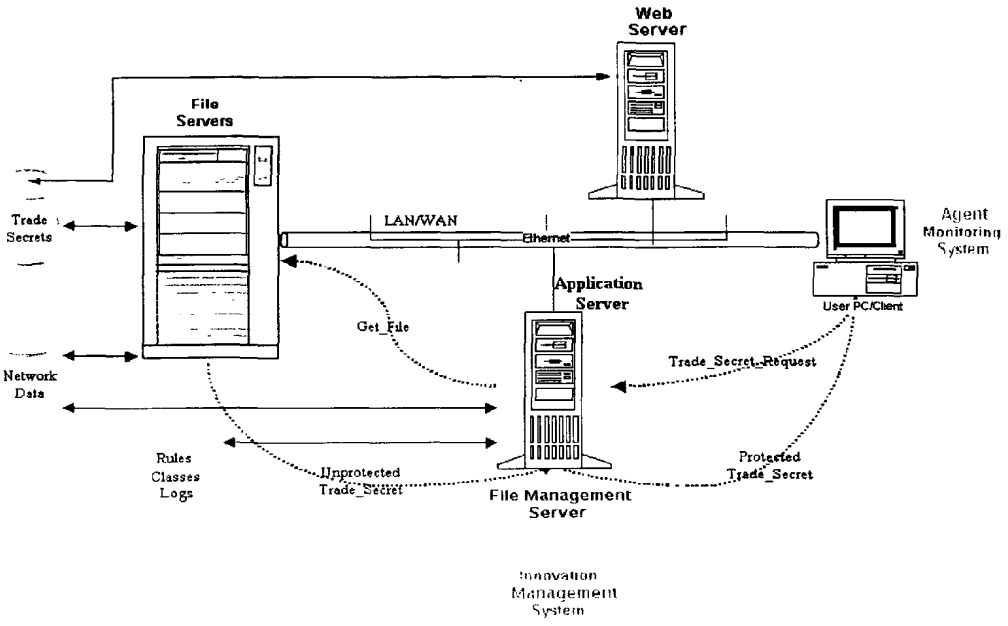
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:
16 May 2002

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING AND MANAGING AN ENTERPRISE IP ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: A system for streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets. The system identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis, and provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives (trade secrets), patent filings, computed valuations (rules classes logs), user information and a variety of detailed reports. An employee has instant access to her latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them.

WO 01/35277 A1

(15) Information about Correction:
see PCT Gazette No. 20/2002 of 16 May 2002, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Title: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING AND MANAGING AN ENTERPRISE IP ENVIRONMENT

This application is a continuation-in-part of Ser.No. 09/687,510 filed October 12, 2000 which claimed priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/159,129 filed October 12, 1999; and a continuation-in-part of Ser.No. [US Express Mail EL609827121US], filed November 3, 2000 which claimed priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/163,877 filed November 5, 1999; this application also claims priority to Provisional Ser.No. 60/165,140 filed November 12, 1999.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to knowledge management systems; more particularly it relates to systems for automating and managing an enterprise IP environment, with global communications network capabilities.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The significance of intellectual property (IP) is growing daily. More and more, corporations realize the importance of preserving and protecting these vital assets, and a select few even appreciate how to capitalize on them. However, the real underlying issue that has not been addressed, up until now, is that in today's digital enterprise there is a tremendous need for a reliable, real-time system for creating, preserving and building value from corporate IP assets. This model must be in synch with today's digital world and enterprise environment and operate on a continuous, real time basis. It must work transparently with the way in which employees work and innovate. It must be a useful productivity tool for IP attorneys and corporate counselors. And it must safeguard and protect the most valuable assets a company owns, its intellectual capital.

Many companies are only recently recognizing the rise in significance of IP as a core asset. However, even with heightened awareness, most continue to operate in antiquated ways, relying on "defensive mechanisms," such as legalistic paperwork and

cumbersome procedures. These techniques are expensive, time-intensive, and inadequately suited for today's digital environment, since they fail to operate in real time.

Today, very few companies use the potential of information technology to streamline processes, promote new innovation, and document and protect their assets. Often, their employees at just about every level are undereducated and unaware of the risks of inadvertent disclosure or competitive loss—setting the stage for future disputes and often leading to litigation, or even worse, the permanent loss of valuable trade secrets.

Most significantly, virtually all corporations underestimate the strategic value of their IP, and therefore, fail to capitalize on the full potential of it. And even while recognizing the growing significance of IP assets, there are essentially no companies that do an effective job at providing the knowledge-connectivity™ and incentive for new innovations.

In today's job market, employees are more mobile than ever before. Mergers, acquisitions, and downsizing are just a few of the reasons. The result is a constantly changing workforce, and the constant creation, disclosure, and turnover of corporate intellectual property. And whereas it is perfectly legal for a highly skilled employee to leave and go to work with a competitor, taking with him or her his own skills and experience, it is not lawful to leave with proprietary company information.

These trends of higher worker mobility and the increasing value of digital assets have converged to create a tremendous opportunity for a new solution. Companies certainly want to avoid additional litigation nightmares, when even a single trade secret dispute or patent infringement suit can cost well over $1 million in legal fees. Douglas Brotz, principle scientist at Adobe Systems, commenting on a patent infringement suit described how it had cost the company more than $4.5 million in legal fees and expenses alone, not to mention over 3,500 hours of his time—the equivalent of two, full years of working time. Most remarkably, this was a case that Adobe *had won,* initially and on appeal. Clearly, an effective means for mitigating the risk of a costly lawsuit would be of great benefit to many leading technology companies.

For the most part, individual employees don't want or intend to break trade secret laws, steal proprietary assets or misappropriate secret files. They just want to pursue the opportunities afforded to them in the free marketplace. In many cases, the

core issue, the one that becomes highly volatile, is that it is nearly impossible to discern between company IP assets and individual skills and knowledge. Coupled with the fact that companies do a very poor job of identifying their IP assets in the first place--62% of companies have no procedures for reporting information loss. This tension becomes the catalyst for another wasteful lawsuit, pitting the company against ex-employee. The company, quite self-righteously, stakes a claim to a broad range of trade secrets; and the employee, defends by pleading that the information is in the public domain, or part of his general skills and knowledge. Just recently, in another high profile suit that illustrates this growing problem, Motorola, Inc. sued Intel for hiring away a number of its key employees. An Intel spokesperson said the action was taken solely to protect Motorola's intellectual property, which it characterized as its "lifeblood."

As a further example of the seriousness of this issue, in 1998 the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) reported that IP losses for U.S. companies might exceed $250 billion annually. Furthermore, five times more companies feel the issue of intellectual property loss is increasing. With the nation's competitiveness riding on our ability to maintain technological superiority, losing trade secrets can be devastating. What makes matters worse is that most companies don't know, nor have they taken action to find out what their specific trade secrets are, and whether or not they are legally protected. This only adds to the potential of a future lawsuit, since only a lengthy hearing of the facts can ultimately determine the "right and wrong."

Slow, expensive and outmoded legal precautions, and time-consuming audits are not the answer in this day and age of rapid product development. To keep their competitive edge, and to promote innovation and capitalize on knowledge assets, there is a need for a new solution—an innovative way of managing IP property.

In the past, intellectual property was not as pressing an issue as it has now become. The connection between an idea and the creation of wealth was less direct, and the road from the one to the other was traveled at a more leisurely pace. By contrast, in today's information-intensive economy, that connection is immediate and intense. Knowledge is now the driving force behind innovation and the creation of new wealth.

Within many of today's companies, innovation fuels high market caps, not tangible assets as in the past. The trends of higher worker mobility and widespread

litigation, coupled with the increasing value of digital assets have converged to create a tremendous opportunity for a new solution.

Need for an Innovation Management System

The preponderance of adjectives such as "monitoring," "protection," "litigation," and "security" immediately conjures up images of "Big Brother." And while proper oversight cannot and should not be ignored, this functionality in and of itself fails to address an even more important issue: How effectively do companies promote innovation? After all, if you accept the fact that IP is becoming more and more critical, then shouldn't companies treat it like their corporate lives depend upon it?

Most companies do very little to tap into the vast resources of knowledge that exist inside their own organizations. One Fortune 100 Company offers a $100 dinner-for-two award for new ideas submitted by email to the corporate counselor. That's not much of an incentive, when you consider the other options available to today's employees, especially those with an entrepreneurial drive, and the ready supply of venture capital that exists.

Many of these companies rely on a perceived underlying expectation that their employees will automatically produce new innovations, as if obligated merely by the fact that they receive a paycheck and benefits. And most companies employ legal covenants that dictate the assignment of new ideas to the company, if developed on company time, with company resources, or which relate to the company's business. That mind set may have worked a generation ago, but it doesn't meet today's needs, or work for today's dynamic job market. After all, who gets to decide where one idea starts and ends? Who owns an idea that may not have been reduced to practice by the employee while he worked for the company? Ownership issues can destroy the potential of a new concept before it gets off the blocks.

It just does not appear that legal pressure is the best way to promote the creation of new ideas. Nor does it appear that employees, particularly the most savvy ones, will naively turn over their best and brightest ideas without some reasonable incentive or recognition, especially as they become more aware of the potential value. Considering that the ideas that gave birth to over 70% of the country's 100 fastest growing companies came from previous employment, it is easy to appreciate the significance of this issue. Today, most companies fail to recognize this, and consequently, they wonder why some of their best talent leaves to pursue other

opportunities—including business ideas that they originated while working for their previous employer.

A recent survey published in the Harvard Business Review reported that "71% of entrepreneurs responsible for starting the country's 100 fastest growing companies developed their ideas through their former employment—either by recognizing an opportunity that the former employer didn't appreciate or even know about, or by improving upon some aspect of the company's products or services."

Overall, the existing corporate infrastructure and antiquated operating methods are poorly designed to deal with today's climate. In this fiercely competitive world just providing a job doesn't do nearly enough to promote innovation—the ultimate goal for progressive companies. What is needed is an Innovation Management System.

Existing Technology in the Knowledge Management Field

The Knowledge Management industry is quickly consuming the myriad fragmented and disparate niche industries that have evolved over the past two decades, including document management, search and retrieval, repositories, object technology, workflow, and most recently the intranet. According to Delphi Consulting Group, buying trends for IT will revolve around this central theme for the next decade.

The most significant aspect of this industry is the growing awareness of the increasing amount of useless data--in other words, no information--in a typical company. Strategically, companies are realizing that knowledge is the key driving force in the next decade, and systems which help manage documents, search, and aid collaboration are desperately needed. In a recent survey, nearly half (43%) of the survey population regarded knowledge management as an opportunity to add value to information inside and outside the organization. But nearly as many respondents (37%) viewed knowledge management in a very different light — as a "major new strategic initiative for staying competitive." Overall, 80% view knowledge management as providing an important contribution to business practice, and 46% of that group views knowledge management as strategic. This same group was asked the primary repositories of corporate knowledge and the biggest obstacles to creating knowledge-based organizations; the results are shown in the charts in Figure 1.

The data however clearly show that while employees are the primary sources of information in the company, all of the current solutions have focused on the remaining items: paper documents, electronic documents, and databases.

The data also reveals that the biggest obstacle is culture. The current business climate simply does not address the needs and wants of the typical knowledge "gold-collar" worker. These employees typically don't trust the "system." Highly skilled workers know they can leave the corporate environment and get better returns, higher salaries, stock options, and greater opportunities than by simply handing over important innovations. Employees are even heard to say "why should I give ABC company my ideas, I'm going to start my own company."

Accounting and valuation begin with documentation. A company with an expensive piece of capital equipment is sure to be aware of it. But most companies have valuable intellectual capital that they do not fully recognize. Many technology companies, for example, with dozens, hundreds or thousands of patents do not have a coherent catalogue of their patents, let alone an analysis of how their patents might be useful and how they might be exploited for economic and competitive gain.

These trends don't just apply to a limited number of high technology companies. Even companies not directly involved in high tech must realize that a substantial portion of their overall assets relate to intellectual property or capital. For instance, a small manufacturer may possess unique mechanical know-how, process knowledge, or techniques that create competitive space. Service companies use proprietary calculations and customer lists to their advantage. The implications of managing IP reach just about every industry classification and category.

The following needs can be identified among companies that produce IP. They need to organize intellectual property so that it can be quickly retrieved, filtered, and sorted by multiple criteria; they need to create an environment conducive to innovation by inspiring IP creation, sharing IP across the corporation, and promoting the intellectual output of individuals within the firm; they need to increase the value of corporate IP assets; they need to slow employee turnover and keep key employees from moving outside the company to start new enterprises; they need to communicate to employees, joint venture partners, and others that it is serious about protecting it's IP, and want to be sure that these same people have acknowledged this; and they need efficient and centralized access to disparate IP-related information, such as legal contracts, signed documents, IP, and usage patterns for making decisions about departing personnel, potential patent infringement, or partnership negotiations.

A brief look at the trade secret laws in the context of a buyer of IP assets provides further illustration of the need for an Innvation Management System.

Today, there is no effective way for companies to accomplish this level of analysis, cost-effectively and efficiently.

Previous attempts to meet customer needs

Patent/IP Software

This category focuses on IP products. In general, the products are complex, patent-centric databases that best serve companies with large and extensive patent and trademark portfolios, and who are very serious about the strategic management of their patents. Many of the systems also include other software modules such as PTO filing, law case management, docket generation, and billing. They either target corporations, law firms, or patent practitioners. This niche has been fairly small, so most companies range in size from 60 to about 250 employees and have deployed in the neighborhood of 100's of customers. Prices range from $5,000 to $30,000 not including customization or installation. Examples in this category include Aurigin's IP Asset Management System, Computer Package's Patent and Trademark Management System, Master Data Center's PC Master, Maxim Technology's InProma, and OP Solution's PATTSY.

ERP/Knowledge Management Software

Almost every software company in existence today can claim some share of the Knowledge Management marketplace. This category of competitors is so numerous it's difficult to find any clear distinguishing differences between them. Most of the products are "enhanced" tools such as database searching, document management, groupware, and personal web page publishing. A recent KM publication listed 36 different software groups as part of the KM marketplace, including Application Development Products, Business & Competitive Intelligence, CAD, CD-related technologies, Collaborative & Work Management, Compound Document Management Software, Data Mining, Data Warehousing, Database Management Systems, Document Conferencing, Document Design/Publishing, Document Management Software, DVD-related technologies, Electronic Commerce, Engineering Document Management Systems, ERP Systems, Forms Processing, Groupware, Image Compression, Image Manipulation, Image Processing, Imaging Application Systems, Input Capture Systems, Intellectual Asset Management, Internet/Intranet Development, Knowledge Management Software/Tools, Micrographics, Multimedia Systems Software, Networking Systems Software, OCR/ICR/OMR Bar coding, On-Demand Print Systems, Portable Document Viewing, Records Retention/Archiving,

Storage Management Systems, Text Retrieval & Management Software, and Workflow.

Clearly, this list contains everything imaginable related to documents and is a highly fragmented conglomeration of companies.

Knowledge Management Consulting

Since this is a complex concept to understand, it is a sure bet that every consulting firm that can claim any relevant expertise is involved. Arthur Andersen seems to be leading the pack in this area by performing IP audits, analyzing workflow processes, and then installing document management and groupware solutions. Most of the consulting firms are focusing on a holistic, and we believe overly broad, approach by examining all aspects of the organization's knowledge base: systems, processes, departments, and technologies. Their angle is that by correctly leveraging knowledge, a company can improve productivity, customer service, quality, speed to market, and other performance improvements. By helping organizations improve how they create, capture, share and apply the knowledge that exists within the company, they can more fully capitalize on it. Web-Based solutions

At present this category only contains one competitor, yet2.com. It appears to be focused on using the Internet as a business-to-business tool targeted at the license of IP for large corporations. Yet2.com has moved quickly to create associations with several premier companies, although the details of these relationships are unknown at this time.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

A three-tiered, scalable, web-based architecture ("the system") is disclosed to dynamically and cost-effectively promote innovation, foster learning, encourage preservation, and allow the management and maximization of corporate IP assets; a solution for automating and managing the modern-day enterprise IP environment. This system works efficiently within the legal parameters of any company environment, regardless of industry, and works in cooperation with In-house Counsel. With real-time access to key information, IP Counsel can focus on higher level, strategic issues, and not mundane documentation tasks.

A reliable, real-time system for creating, preserving and building value from corporate IP assets is disclosed. The system is in synch with today's digital world and enterprise environment and operates on a continuous, real time basis. It works

transparently with the way in which employees work and innovate, it is a useful productivity tool for IP attorneys and corporate counselors, and it safeguards and protects the most valuable assets a company owns, its intellectual capital. It uses the potential of information technology to streamline processes, promote new innovation, and document and protect a company's assets. It does a very effective job of providing the Knowledge-connectivity™ and incentive for new innovations.

The system meets all of the needs identified above. Using the system, companies can organize intellectual property so that it can be quickly retrieved, filtered, and sorted by multiple criteria; create an environment conducive to innovation by inspiring IP creation, sharing IP across the corporation, and promoting the intellectual output of individuals within the firm; increase the value of corporate IP assets; slow employee turnover and motivate key employees from moving outside the company to start new enterprises; communicate to employees, joint venture partners, and others that they are serious about protecting their IP, with assurance that these same people have acknowledged this serious view; and achieve efficient and centralized access to disparate IP-related information, such as legal contracts, signed documents, IP, and usage patterns for making decisions about departing personnel, potential patent infringement, or partnership negotiations. With the system companies can accomplish a cost effective and efficient level of analysis as to their trade secrets or any other IP assets.

The System also delivers three key benefits: Value Creation, Awareness, and Accountability.

Value Creation

One of the goals of the system is to inspire and promote new innovation within corporations. We don't believe that the innovation process is optimized for either companies or employees. Our systems help to foster an environment where creativity is recognized and rewarded in direct alignment with the goals of the company. A company that recognizes the contributions of its employees will certainly create a more stable employment environment—and attract talented people—sharpen its competitive edge, and ultimately become more successful. The system employs system-level tools that inspire the creation and sharing of new ideas and knowledge, which ultimately contributes to the increased valuation of any company.

Awareness

By making employees more aware and sensitive to the treatment of proprietary information, companies will be better protected from the risk of detrimental loss. Most employers do not realize that the two greatest risks to IP are employees stealing secrets or divulging secrets at a future job. Employees need to recognize the significance of a company's IP assets and understand their responsibility for preserving them. Even a single unprotected disclosure can mean the permanent loss of a valuable trade secret. The system increases the threshold of awareness in a company's working environment, and at the same time demonstrates the company's proactive concern for safeguarding its valuable assets.

Accountability

Among all the assets that a business owns, its IP may be the most important and valuable. To substantiate this, the Brookings Institution in Washington surveyed U.S. manufacturers in 1982 and determined that physical assets such as factories, property, and equipment made up 62% of the companies' total market value, with the rest of the value represented by proprietary knowledge. Ten years later, the researchers determined that physical assets accounted for only 38%, with the remainder consisting of the firms' intangible knowledge assets.

Xerox actually invented the Windows concept of computer software perhaps two decades ago, long before Apple and Microsoft locked in their currently well-known legal dispute. But for all of its size and resources, Xerox failed to seek a patent and never gained a foothold in the market Apple eventually dominated.

A sustainable competitive advantage depends on how effectively a company can manage, protect and exploit IP—corporate survival depends on it. The last thing that a company needs is for lax oversight to put these assets at risk. Corporate leaders have a baseline responsibility to preserve corporate assets and work to capitalize on them. The System provides the information that a company needs to ensure that it is responsibly doing its very best to preserve assets, answering such questions as, "What specific trade secrets exist in the business today? Are they being properly and consistently maintained? Who has direct access to them?"

User/System Benefits

Discussed below are departments and individuals within the typical corporate environment who will benefit from using the System. For each example, the user's needs and the ultimate system benefits are shown.

Marketing needs to be able to determine competitive strengths and weaknesses, new areas of market growth. The System automatically summarizes company innovations. The System performs detailed searches on the Internet to find competing or encroaching ideas; reports are available which list potential competitive strengths or weaknesses. These searches are performed automatically and routinely using intelligent agents, giving market analysts a jump-start on which areas to investigate.

Executive Management needs to get an accurate picture of the level of innovation in the company. Are employees building corporate value? Are we recognizing our key contributors? Are we properly protecting and preserving our assets? The System produces graphic presentations and detailed reporting of the number of innovations per month, year, or quarter give senior managers a firm understanding of their level of innovation. Further stratification of the data by department or job function can help develop future strategic direction. Summary reports display access to protected information by class, type, date, user, etc. Management can quickly assess the level of protection, and if needed, can globally change security levels to reflect changing environments.

Corporate IP has to have a "handle" on the specific IP being created; it owns responsibility for oversight. What is being created, what is its value, who is creating it, what means of protection should be employed? The system creates an instant snapshot of the current state of all IP in the company. Its like getting an instantaneous IP audit at the touch of a button.

Technical Employee wants recognition for new ideas and innovations. Innovation Management System™ allows the user to "certify" the idea with immediate supervisor, corporate IP, and posting for company-wide viewing on the corporate intranet. Corporate IP has to have a "handle" on the specific IP being created—owns responsibility for oversight. What is being created, what is its value, who is creating it, what means of protection should be employed? The system creates an instant snapshot of the current state of all IP in the company. Its like getting an instantaneous IP audit at the touch of a button.

Human Resources needs to inform departing employees that they have an on-going obligation to keep corporate trade secrets and intellectual property confidential. By allowing instant access to the usage pattern for any individual who has viewed corporate secrets, HR can quickly generate and show departing employees a listing of all confidential materials accessed and printed. Furthermore, HR can quickly print

out scanned images of the departing employee's signed confidentiality agreements, non-disclosure statements, and policy acknowledgments.

Human Resources also needs to provide more meaningful data to the employee review process. In addition to all of the usual employee review data, HR can query the System and determine all of the ideas that an individual has submitted over the past year. How can the productivity of a "business development manager" be measured without it?

Finance wants to know, "What is the value of the company's goodwill?" It needs to try to determine the costs of a new product launch, the total corporate value of IP or trade secrets. Because idea submitters enter hours spent, along with other resources that contributed to the innovation, assets can be assigned tangible values and tracked on the company's balance sheet.

The System streamlines the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets. The System identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis. It provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports. A client has instant access to their latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them. They know precisely the status of their property, and can quickly view summary reports and valuation data. This information is extremely beneficial in linking IP to the company's strategic objectives. See Figure 2.

The System is highly configurable and creates a wide range of user-selectable classifications of assets, allowing the system to be customized in alignment with individual business needs. For example, a software development company can selectively designate individual network folders as "CLASS 1" Trade Secrets. A number of parameters can be associated with this CLASS 1 status or mode. In this scenario, CLASS 1 provides the ultimate level of protection. Every access to these trade secrets will be monitored and logged by the System. If necessary, and depending on the protective features enabled, every user action such as viewing, printing, copying, and modifying can be transparently logged and sent to the main Server. See Figure 5.

You instantly know who has accessed your key IP files, and who has downloaded them, viewed or copied them. This level of data acquisition can be invaluable in the case of employee ownership disputes, determining level of disclosure,

or commercial licensing negotiations. And even more importantly, all of this data is essential to proving that your company took the necessary preventative precautions to protect the secrecy of your trade secrets—invaluable in the face of future litigation.

Innovation Management System

As stated earlier, the existing corporate infrastructure and antiquated operating methods are poorly designed to deal with today's climate. The Innovation Management System™ is needed.

An Innovation Management System (IMS) is disclosed. This preferably web-based GUI encourages innovation, providing valuable benefits to both employees and employers. It allows employees to enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification. In many instances, one of the greatest reservations employees have against providing ideas to upper management or other departments is the lack of control, authorship, and credit they associate with typical corporate environments. At one time or another, we have all been victims of intellectual theft—perhaps a design sketch given to your boss concerning a product improvement that appears months later in a corporate document without your name on it. In addition to certification and registration, the system can provide automatic e-mail notifications to an immediate supervisor and the corporate IP department (all configurable), as well as entry and logging into the company-wide recognition database. Others in your company, with appropriate privilege levels, can search (by key words, project descriptions, PTO classifications, author, date, etc.) and instantly access archived innovations, increasing the level of inter-company collaboration. The company can create more effective incentives and "innovation awards" tightly coupled to strategic goals.

Users of the IMS can link to more details on each submission, email comments and suggestions directly to the author (for improved collaboration and knowledge management), or even submit their own improvements as a new or supplemental innovation. See Figure 13.

The IMS database becomes an efficient tool for HR departments, and can be used for evaluating employee performance, measuring overall corporate innovation levels, and identifying qualified and motivated employees to join a special R&D team.

The Corporate Legal Department will benefit because the IMS provides extensive documentation in a wide-range of beneficial areas. For instance, IP Counsel can monitor for new patentable ideas in real time, since they are directly linked into

the system. This efficiency can reduce the time necessary to prepare and prosecute new patents. It also frees up Patent Attorneys to higher-level activities, instead of mundane data collection work. The IMS will enable attorneys to provide improved oversight for new trade secrets before they are lost through inadvertent disclosure. The system archives the documentation trail from the outset, invaluable for assignment issues and establishing firm priority dates.

IMS Web Site

The IMS also provides an interface to the external Internet (optional and configurable). Ideas and submissions can be published and linked to an external (*i.e.* MindMatters.com) web site. The site serves as an innovation access link to companies all over the world. It is possible for interested buyers and sellers to initiate exploratory communications via embedded links, as well as conduct negotiations on available licensable technologies. There is an appropriate legal framework to streamline the exchange of information for the site, assuming that at a certain level, the materials may contain proprietary information.

The site also provides an optimum way for companies to initially view "unsolicited ideas" without the threat of legal reprisal or the burden of lengthy, internal approval processes. Today, many companies are extremely cautious about looking at unsolicited ideas, even potentially valuable ones, because of the potential threat of future litigation. There have been a multitude of cases in recent years involving the purported misappropriation of inventions and ideas resulting from even casual discussions. In response, many companies have established cumbersome, paper-intensive procedures to deal with unsolicited ideas. Some have prohibited them altogether. Needless to say, this constricts the flow of innovation. The site solves this problem as well by building in a protective legal barrier and managing the information exchange. The site acts as a safe and efficient conduit between the parties.

The IMS identifies innovations by key words, categories, PTO Classifications, dates, industries (SIC Codes), and identification/tracking numbers. Interested parties search the web site for innovations applicable to their own businesses or use "search agents" which automatically notify them if something meets their criteria. If they find ideas that merit further investigation, clicking on an e-mail link automatically connects them to the author or representative. By aggregating innovations at the web site, we are actively promoting innovation and knowledge sharing on a broader scale, while simultaneously building a meaningful intellectual property resource. This site

becomes the first link in establishing meaningful relationships for future licensing and royalty agreements. See Figure 3.

A nominal fee is charged for creating the direct link between subscribers and new ideas. When a subscriber chooses to contact the source of the innovation, i.e., by email, a different small fee will be charged. This fee may be negligible in the early stages, in an attempt to drive usage and minimize nuisance requests (such as $0.33). A membership subscription is also contemplated. Other interaction, including submitting ideas, searching for ideas, or configuring "search agents" are free of charge.

Simple Installation

Today's MIS manager has less time than ever to fiddle with finicky programs or configure endless mazes of menus. The system is designed to plug quickly into the network and instantly begin collecting information in its basic configuration. The system simply needs to have an IP (xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx Internet Protocol) address for the network, and a physical connection to the network. IT managers can remotely configure the system via a web interface, and independent systems can be hierarchically managed, along with reporting, back to a central monitor. Communication takes places in encrypted channels. Installation of web components is even simpler as the applications/date are easily installed into an existing web server.

The system is a scalable, modular system that can be implemented incrementally over time. Network solutions are implemented and designed around standard Microsoft DNA components.

Improvements over Existing Knowledge Management Technology

An important benchmark industry to compare disclosed products and services with is the field of Knowledge Management. As stated above, there is growing awareness of the increasing amount of useless data--in other words, no information--in a typical company.

Increasing the value of corporate information is important; however, rather than just designing tools to plod through piles of data, the system is an accounting framework that values (using legal standards as a model), helps protect, and most importantly creates information. But where the Knowledge Management industry has focused on only paper documents, electronic documents, and databases, not employees. The system focuses on all four elements, realizing that employees are the most critical, through the Innovation Management System (IMS). IMS makes itself the employee's

"best friend," as this is the key starting point in the innovation process. If employees trust and use the IMS to help them accomplish their personal goals (while simultaneously satisfying the corporate goals), then the flow of new innovations will be substantial.

The data also reveals that the biggest obstacle is culture. The system addresses the needs and wants of the typical knowledge "gold-collar" worker. The IMS overcomes the cultural disinclination of such workers by allowing innovators to share in the glory and financial success of their ideas. The System will also set the bar for what is required for companies to prove that they did in fact take reasonable measures to protect their assets.

The system is designed to provide an appropriate interface to previous systems that attempt to meet customer needs, such as patent/IP software, and knowledge management software.

The disclosed system is a comprehensive, supervisory system that functions seamlessly on top of existing architectures, and which efficiently monitors and promotes innovation. Innovation is the core focus. The system is unique in that it is designed from the bottom up to be extremely easy to install and integrate with existing systems. Administrators will be able to install it incrementally in a modular fashion, as the needs and demands of the system grow over time. IP and Innovation managers will be able to progressively configure the system for customized applications, producing additional revenue streams from added licenses and services.

The disclosed system is superior to existing knowledge management consulting approaches, with or without Web enablement, at least in the critical area of IP tracking and management. The innovation content that a company provides under the disclosed system offers a much more compelling site to its users, both company users and the internet population. For example the system includes not only a web-trading interface, but also a mechanism for capturing innovation directly from the sources, transferring it through the organization, and protecting it from inadvertent loss. One of the key factors for success will be making it easy for participants in the web experience to upload information on a continuous basis. This keeps the information fresh and frees corporations from the laborious task of entering data repeatedly.

It is a further objective of the Enterprise Innovation Management System (EIMS) to provide a system that promotes and tracks innovations, fosters learning about intellectual assets, encourages preservation of intellectual assets, and monitors

and tracks these assets from inception through analysis/ranking and licensing until the asset is retired or completely depreciated. A global environmental model for the EIMS is presented

The term "Innovation" is used to represent any contribution by an individual or team that seeks to positively enhance some product/process/system within an organization. The term "Idea" is sometimes used interchangeably with Innovation.

The EIMS (or System) consists of four independent applications that function together in an enterprise-wide solution. Together the System streamlines the process of fostering idea creation, educating and rewarding employees who create valuable intellectual property (IP), analyzing and prioritizing IP according to company-defined rating factors, sharing information both externally (if desired) and internally to facilitate licensing and increased productivity, and preserving and protecting proprietary assets. See Figure 33.

A. Innovation Management System™

The EIMS is a web-based GUI that encourages innovation, providing valuable benefits to both employees and employers. It allows employees to enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification to discourage "borrowing" by unethical employees. In addition to certification and registration, the System can provide automatic e-mail notifications to an immediate supervisor and the corporate IP department (all configurable), as well as entry and logging into the company-wide intranet. Others in a user company, with appropriate privilege levels, can search (by key words, project descriptions, PTO classifications, author, date, etc.) and instantly access archived innovations, increasing the level of inter-company collaboration. The company can create more effective incentives and "innovation awards" tightly coupled to strategic goals.

B. Analysis/Ranking Module

This set of tools allows peer groups, IP counsel, or other trusted sources to rank and prioritize innovations that are entered (either through the Innovator or manually) into the system. The power of these tools is highlighted in their ability to quantify both objective and subjective measurement criteria. The rankings are aggregated and weighed relative to the company's strategic objectives, that is, a company can decide that financial factors such as development expense or ROI are more/less important than customer-relationship factors such as new product introductions or quality. Once

ranked, innovations can then be compared against each other and scientific judgments can be made regarding level of investment.

C. Licensing Web Site & Intra-Organization Sharing

The System also provides an interface to both the corporate intranet and/or external Internet (optional and configurable). Tools provided through this application allow the company to quickly publish innovations that the company either does not want or would like to co-license to other companies. In addition, ideas and submissions can be published and linked to the MMT web site. The MMT site serves as an innovation access link to companies all over the world. There are numerous benefits, including the potential to create licensing agreements, streamline product development, find strategic partners, etc. MMT also explores full scale licensing opportunities, i.e., business-to-business eCommerce, via the website. It is possible for interested buyers and sellers to initiate exploratory communications via embedded links, as well as conduct negotiations on available licensable technologies. MMT creates the appropriate legal framework to streamline the exchange of information, assuming that at a certain level, the materials may contain proprietary information.

D. Network Monitoring & Protection System (NMPS)

NMPS identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis. It provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports. A client has instant access to their latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them as the monitoring process can start as soon as the ideas are submitted into the System through the Innovator. They know precisely the status of their property, and can quickly view summary reports and valuation data. This information is extremely beneficial in linking IP to the company's strategic objectives.

You instantly know who has accessed your key IP files, and who has downloaded them, viewed or copied them. This level of data acquisition can be invaluable in the case of employee ownership disputes, determining level of disclosure, or commercial licensing negotiations. And even more importantly, all of this data is essential to proving that your company took the necessary preventative precautions to protect the secrecy of your trade secrets—invaluable in the face of future litigation.

Scope

The EIMS preferably has external interfaces to other third-party software and services. These may include any of the following:

Independent Market Makers: These are services/companies that take finished, licensable intellectual property, i.e., software for license, patents, technologies, and make them available to either general or specific groups of potential customers. They require detailed information about the property for sale and provide leads from interested parties to the EIMS.

Time/Date Authority: This service provides a legal time and date stamp for submitted intellectual property. The certificate is capable of withstanding legal scrutiny and is stored with the idea's descriptive information in the EIMS.

Marketing Leads Databases: Based on the potential applications of the property and the technologies employed, these services provide qualified leads for marketing back into the EIMS. Many of these services are based on industry segments.

Independent Search Agents: This service is composed of two different components: MMT services and independent services. The MMT services provides specific competitive information to MMT users based on search criteria for a particular idea. Independent services scan the Internet or other proprietary databases for relevant information. In both cases, the EIMS sends search criteria, verifies access and then returns results back to the user for review.

Docket System: This is an interface to a docket management system for patents, trademarks, copyrights and other property. Once an idea is determined to be patentable, the docket system handles all of the legal, date, and filing requirements. The EIMS sends the packet of information to the docket system and the docket system communicates with the EIMS via status reports. These status reports are available to be shown to the users.

Third Party Analysis Reviewer: This is an interface to a trusted third-party for the purposes of soliciting feedback on a particular idea. The reviewer has basic information about the idea and provides feedback in the areas designated by the EIMS. The EIMS verifies that the information came from the correct source and then collects and aggregates the data. See Figure 34.

An apparatus is disclosed for registering access to data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc) recorded on storage media as a means to determine history of use whereby a Client/User requests data from a server, the server wraps it with a

protection agent and sends it to a Client/User. The protection agent is attached to the specific data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc.) which determines the degree of use allowed by user (reading, deleting, modifying, printing, etc), and is based on type of data, file type, date/time, location, etc., and also on user level, group, etc., and optionally on pre-determined method for establishing rules used to register access to data recorded on storage media. The server records access to the data, and managers get reports that detail accesses to the data.

An apparatus is disclosed for registering access to data (paper, electronic, formulae, etc) recorded on storage media as a means to determine history of use where registration means the recording of file block system read/writes/updates, recording file name read/writes/updates, or the recording of physical data segment read/writes/updates.

An apparatus is disclosed for wrapping designated trade secret(s) with rules for access into an binary form executable only by the intended recipient(s).

A method is disclosed for determining the relative protection level of an entity's intellectual property (trade secrets, patents, trademarks, copyrights) using Spider graph and associated questions, etc. A method of pair-wise comparison is used for determining relative priority of key factors (accountability, awareness, secrecy, and security), and also using benchmark comparisons against the data entity.

An intelligent IP Accumulator/Agent Monitoring System is disclosed having methodology for searching, finding, identifying, wrapping, safeguarding, classifying/declassifying, shredding and deleting, and encrypting potential IP assets on a continuous, real time basis. This system charts IP assets from origination onward.

Other embodiments disclosed are:

Auto-protect Assets: Methods for automatically generating an appropriate class of confidentiality marking/wrapper based on preset configuration parameters. Self-generate internal icon set to coincide with protection level. S/W agents that auto-report and track key assets.

MMT System-level functionality: Defines specifically what data is considered secret; the relative class of the secrets; the software protection methods utilized to actively protect (i.e. encryption), and the imputed value of creating the secrets (based upon accumulated man-hours, market studies, projected earnings, etc.)

IP Event Trigger: Based upon preset parameters, the system automatically monitors for specific behavior on the network that indicates a possible IP event. Ex: large data transfers or downloads. Increase in access rates of identified TS's. Extensive access beyond/outside pertinent class. Time-based events: employee departures; audits, etc.

IP Database: Methodology for collecting specific IP data on a unique server, updated periodically or continuously based upon preset parameters; with the capability to request status inputs from individual IP wrappers or objects.

IP Audit/Due Diligence: Computer methodology for triggering an instantaneous IP audit—dynamic update on all priority IP assets. Accumulate most current asset information, usage, risk exposure, licensing status, etc. (Departing employee situation). Generate reports based on access, usage, class, employee, type, etc.

IP Incentive: Automated methodology for promoting and tracking innovation based upon pre-selected configuration parameters. (See IMS)

IP Access: Methodology for tracking the usage/distribution of IP assets. Relate to risk exposure and safeguarding proprietary information policies. Auto-generate warnings prior to use of trade secrets.

In addition the following are also claimed:

An online registration 'engine' for ideas, innovations where the engine comprises one or more computer terminals with access to a storage device and connected to at least on other terminal by a networking protocol, either Internet TCP/IP or local or wide area network. The engine also comprises a database resident on the storage device with software operable to receive into the database details of the idea and details identifying the submitting user, and creating a relationship therebetween that together comprise the registration. A certified time stamp is optionally applied to the registration. The idea registration is then made available, according to selectable permissions and rules, to selected other users on the network.

Optionally, the same or different storage device accommodates a database for documents relating to the registered ideas etc (where documents can be anything stored electronically and/or digitally), and the database is the same as the idea registration database or is a different but operably connected database that provides an associative, recallable, and searchable relationship between the registration and any document that refers to it or is developed from it.

Optionally, a tracking engine is provided for the docs to track them and record access to them and improvements to them and derivatives from them, the engine also recording such 'set' relationships among the various docs as may be generated by common denominators such as identity of author or other major contributor, same or similar or related idea, keywords, and the like.

Also provided is an intelligent means to drive routing of docs and ideas to colleagues, selected peers, and selected or selectably automatically identified experts in the same area as the idea, for evaluation and/or analysis of docs and their ideas and for possible mutual collaboration. Optional automatic valuation and business prioritization of ideas is contemplated as well.

Optionally, means is provided by which parties made aware of the idea and or docs and any resource needs expressly contained therein may respond with commitments toward meeting all or part of the expressed resource needs, optionally joining in the enterprise which is the furtherance of the idea.

As an alternate and further disclosure the following is provided:

A system for web based development and exploitation of IP, with an innovator attraction module, a developer attraction module, a registration module, and a match module is disclosed. The registration module is adapted to accept and store dated related to an innovator and the innovator's innovation in an innovation database, and the match module is adapted to match a registered innovation and innovator with a developer having stated requirements and resources for development.

A method of web based development and exploitation of IP with the following steps is disclosed:

a. attracting a plurality of innovators, each having at least one innovation;

b. attracting at least one developer, the developer having stated requirements and verifiable resources for development of IP;

c. registering innovation data related to an innovation in a database on a storage medium connected to an information network;

d. registering developer data related to the developer's stated requirements and verifiable resources for development of IP in a database on a storage medium connected to the information network;

e. making innovation data available to a developer and developer data available to at least one innovator.

A number of different kinds of users are contemplated for the system and methods disclosed. Users may be innovators or developers; users may also belong to the general public, or specific demographic segment of the public such as youth under 18, or seniors over 55.

In preferred embodiments of the invention a web site is contemplated for housing the user interface aspects of the modules disclosed as part of the system, and for effecting the steps of the disclosed methods. This web site, or a plurality of such sites, are anticipated to be owned and/or operated by a variety of interested parties. For example a company develops such a site to foster and encourage and track and reward innovation amongst its own employees and contractors; or an industry segment jointly effects such a site to encourage innovation within the segment; or a public body such as local, state or federal government, or agencies or departments of such bodies, or institutions of such bodies (libraries and universities) effects an innovation site such as that disclosed. Special interest groups such as environmentalists, global health or ecological concerns, or more local community concerns will also sponsor or operate such sites. Any given site may be an intranet and relatively closed to access by general public users; or it may be an extranet, or it may be fully open to the entire internet, or anywhere in between, limited only by its owners to effectuate its particular purposes.

Innovators can be attracted to such a site for a number of reasons and in a number of ways. Some desire to be validated in an evaluation and/or reward process; others wish to learn more about their craft of innovation and about how to more effectively and profitably exploit the fruits of their creativity; still others wish to see and perhaps compare their innovations with the innovations of others, and all come to be encouraged. The preferred site offers evaluation, prize and other financial reward opportunities, invited professional expertise in innovation and exploitation skills and resources, a database of other innovations, categorized into industries and fields of creative endeavor, and the like, and by keyword, and such other indicia as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. But especially, the preferred site offers encouragement to all users who visit.

Developers (which is to say all those individuals and companies that bring commitment and resources to the task of perfecting, marketing and otherwise exploiting IP to mutual profit and global benefit) can also be attracted to such a site for a number of reasons and in a number of ways. Some will be attracted to a pool of

raw innovation ('raw' in the sense that, depending on the origin and sponsorship of the particular site of course, most innovators will typically not be pre-tied to a research institution or corporate research apparatus - except in sites run by just such organizations, but as to those innovators, they are typically not pre-tied to any outside interests); others to the intrinsic and extrinsic of sponsorship, desiring to build goodwill in the community, especially in Community Corner and Kids Corner type sites or subsites, as well as to the more tangible benefits of branding and brand identification to the innovator pool and other users and visitors to the site; others will be attracted by the opportunity to run infomercial and other marketing on the site, and still others will be eager to have a finger on a grass roots technology pulse.

The preferred site offers the pool of raw innovation and eager innovators; it provides a variety of opportunities for highly visible sponsorship, from banner ads to contest prizes; it provides a platform for infomercialization that is a true win/win by educating users as it also markets to them; and the pulse of innovation available by searches of the site database will provide valuable background to other data more usually watched by technology development executives.

The site provides a ready vehicle and means to get ideas registered and transformed into searchable and trackable data. Ideas and innovations and their related data can preferably be tracked both before and after any match ups with developers, and innovation data updates and developer resources and match outcome updates can be tracked as well. All innovator users have the option of specifying levels of permission for the dissemination and/or sharing of their innovation data. Recurrent innovator input is encouraged, as is recurrent follow up by developers with their innovator prospects, generating in preferred embodiments a kind of interactive and iterative feedback between the develop and innovator, all to the positive in further developing the innovation and bringing it to successful exploitation. This extra- or post- match interaction is preferably tracked as well, and all data tracked is preferably stored in a database for retrieval and analysis.

Throughout the disclosure, where single databases are referred to, or multiple or connected databases are referred to, it is intended that each shall optionally have the meaning of the other, so that one database may be the equivalent of several others and a network of databases may be the equivalent, for disclosure purposes, of a single database. All matches referred to in the disclosure may be understood to refer to one

to one matches, or one to many, or many to one, or many to many, as makes best sense in any particular embodiment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a set of charts showing corporate predilections for (a) repositories of data and (b) obstacles to creation of a fully function IP system.

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a trade secret monitoring aspect of the system.

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram of an Internet innovation marketing aspect of the system.

Figure 4a-d is set of screen shots showing an Explorer aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a-c showing an earlier version and details on a system trade secret search, and with d showing a corresponding but updated Web version of a File Cabinet search page.

Figure 5a-b is a set of screen shots showing a Classes/Users aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing a corresponding but updated Web version of a Human Resource search page.

Figure 6 is a screen shot showing a Data Analysis aspect of the IMS VB GUI.

Figure 7a-c is a set of screen shots showing a innovation database Search Results aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b-c showing corresponding but updated Web versions of a Database Search page and a NDA Tracker page.

Figure 8a-b is a set of screen shots showing a Monitor aspect of the IMS VB GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing corresponding but updated Web version of an alternate search results page.

Figure 9a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Home Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 10a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Submissions Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 11a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Search Results Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 12 is a screen shot showing an Innovator Corporate Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 13 is a screen shot showing an Innovator Top Innovations Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 14a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Database Search Results Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 15a-d is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Management Tools aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b-d showing updated versions.

Figure 16a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Summary Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 17a-b is a set of screen shots showing an Innovator Details Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI, with a showing an earlier version and with b showing an updated version.

Figure 18 is a Trade Secret System Overview Diagram .

Figure 19 is a schematic of the NMPS system of the invention.

Figure 20 is a schematic of the FMS system of the invention.

Figure 21 is screen shot of the IPX VB Explorer.

Figure 22 is screen shot of the IPX VB Classes/Users.

Figure 23 is screen shot of the IPX VB Trade Secret Classes.

Figure 24 is screen shot of the IPX VB User list.

Figure 25 is screen shot of the IPX VB User Classes.

Figure 26 is screen shot of the IPX VB Permissions.

Figure 27 is screen shot of the IPX VB IP TS Removal Options.

Figure 28a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation submission pages.

Figure 29a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation database search pages.

Figure 30a-b are new and older screens shots respectively of HTML Innovation search results pages.

Figure 31is a screen shot of an Innovator Summary Page aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 32 is a screen shot of an Innovator Management Tools aspect of the IMS Web GUI.

Figure 33 is a screen shot of a main index page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 34 is a diagram of an aspect of the FMS system.

Figure 35a is a screen shot of a user overview page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 35b is a screen shot of a submission for collaboration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 36 is a screen shot of a search agent configuration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 37 is a screen shot of a personal bio page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 38 is a screen shot of a collaboration seek and results page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 39 is a screen shot of an analysis / ranking module page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 40 is a screen shot of a IP asset detail page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 41 is a screen shot of a resources contribution page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 42 is a screen shot of a technology transfer enablement page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 43 is a screen shot of a search agents configuration page for an Innovator installation of the EIMS system.

Figure 44 is a table of contents for a preferred website.

Figure 45 is a home page for a preferred website.

Figure 46 is a Contest page for a preferred website.

Figure 47 is a Corporate Corner subsite Home for a preferred website.

Figure 48a-c is a Top Innovations page for a preferred website.

Figure 49 is an Industry Hubs page for a preferred website.

Figure 50 is Semiconductor subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 51 is a Licensing Hubs page for a preferred website.

Figure 52a-b is an Idea Submission page for a preferred website.

Figure 53 is a Kids Center page for a preferred website.

Figure 54a-b is a Best Ideas subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 55 is a Bike Riders Club subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 56 is a submission wizard and drawing tool subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 57 is a Community page for a preferred website.

Figure 58 is a Life Sciences subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 59 is a Social Problems subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 60 is an Inventors page for a preferred website.

Figure 61 is a Strategic Resources subpage for a preferred website.

Figure 62a-b is a Site News and Updates page for a preferred website.

Figure 63 is a Database Search page for a preferred website.

Figure 64 is a Registration page for a preferred website.

Figure 65 is a flowchart of a preferred embodiment.

BEST MODE OF CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

A. Innovation Management System (IMS)

A.1. Innovation Quick Overview: This subsystem is the primary idea input system for the end-user. The main purpose is for the end-user to enter ideas into the system so that they can be "recorded" for other purposes. As an idea is entered, the date/time is automatically entered as well, and the user has the comfort of knowing that his/her idea has been officially recorded. Along with recording the actual idea (via spreadsheet, word processor document, etc), the user also enters pertinent information such as key words, descriptions, supporting references, pictures, department number, employee id, protection level, other authors, etc. Users are also able to search through previously recorded ideas (theirs or other peoples') before submitting an idea to see if their innovation is unique, or view the number of times other people have viewed their submissions. Users are also able to view educational news stories concerning corporate IP (or other configurable source; this is configured by the user). See Figure 35a.

A.1.1. Configuration: This allows the Innovator to be customized by the user. The user can pick colors, skins, and java applets to personalize their space. Configuration also occurs dynamically, i.e., the user can change the placement of various tables and graphs.

A.2. Innovation Submission: This is the main submission functionality. It includes methods for attaching documents, entering ancillary data (dept. number, key words, etc.), the amount of time spent generating the idea, and references. After an idea is

submitted, an e-mail message is automatically sent to the user (as verification) and to the user's immediately supervisor. The system can be configured to send e-mail messages (or hard copy printouts) to any number of peers, groups, or managers. E-mail verification is an important step in the trade secret process. By sending an e-mail to the manager and/or IP department, a determination can be made as to whether the innovation is to be classified as a trade secret or patent protected, or whether it should be deleted. The user is notified of any change in status via e-mail so that any discrepancies can be challenged. Ideas that are successfully submitted are available for viewing in the user's file cabinet.

A.2.1. Paper-Based Submission: For ideas that may need to have paper-based documents submitted, this functionality addresses the situation. The user makes a notation in the system, i.e., title, date of the paper document, then the system generates a unique barcode to affix to the document for tracking. From them on, the document is associated with the idea and is tracked by barcode.

A.2.2. Collaborative Document Submission: This duplicates the functionality of an innovation submission, but allows the user to submit "other documents" that might be useful for collaboration or sharing. The idea is that the more people are willing to share (if they get credit), the better off the organization is. See Figure 35b.

A.3. Innovation Tracking: This records the date, number of times an idea is accessed and downloaded, and by whom it is accessed (including external viewing on via an unprotected location, see C.1). Data stored in other databases is managed via the FMS. As ideas are viewed, the AMS in conjunction with the FMS determine the level of protection afforded, i.e., encryption, visual warning, etc. This function also records the results of key word searches as described in the D3.3 and D3.4.

A.4. Innovation Searching: This function allows users to search the idea database for similar innovations or authors with similar ideas for collaboration. Searching can be based on key words, authors, dates, abstracts, or descriptive classifications. An important element of this search mechanism is that it allows searching in the internal corporate network (LAN/Intranet) as well as through external sources. Internal searches are augmented by searching network servers and repositories as well as through interfaces to document management/knowledge management systems. Internal results return the relevant matches as well as the person/team responsible for the match. External searches can be handled in two different ways, either directly by the innovator system through the company's network or via an external source,

such as MindMatters. The importance is that a third party can perform a search without disclosing the identity of the entity requesting the information, this is particularly important when competitive searches are made. See Figure 36.

A.5. Innovation Statistics: This function allows the user to view statistics on any ideas in the database. Statistics include: author, key words, date submitted, number of times viewed, number of contributions by the author, and viewing rank (the higher the number of times other people viewed the idea, the higher the ranking). If the idea has been submitted for peer review or the status of a review are also possible to see. If the company has an award program, statistics on this are shown as well. For example, if the a particular idea won "best new computer software", then this accolade is shown.

A.5.1. Personal Statistics: This function allows the user to see his/her personal innovation statistics. This includes: personal home page hits, file cabinet hits, citations, downloads, collaboration agent hits, submissions, analyses performed, NDA citations, patents, Internet publications, licenses, and accepted submissions among other things. See Figure 30a&b.

A.6. Innovation Reporting: This function presents all of the ideas in a summary manner. Managers are able to view the number of ideas submitted per individual, department, or division; the frequency of ideas submitted by day, week, month, etc.; the types of ideas by key word, area, etc.

A.7. Publish Biographical Information: Generates an automatic home page based on previously entered data, network user information, file cabinet data, and user input. See Figure 37.

A.8. Relationship Manager: This is a mechanism for increasing person-to-person communication and networking within large networks, i.e., corporate, Internet, intranet. With a large number of people in a network (physical or electronic), it can be very difficult to locate people within the network who others can collaborate with in various development and marketing initiatives. When locating others within a particular network, a person may be trying to find complementary skills/experiences or similar skills/experiences. For example, in some large corporations, it is nearly impossible to locate all of the pockets of work associated with Java, pervasive computing, or semiconductor research. Although many of these environments have various internal stratifications, countless organization charts, re-organization efforts, and databases, the most common method employed is word-of-mouth or random hit-

and-miss calls using one of the aforementioned information sources. Most of the titles and job responsibilities are either out-of-date or meaningless. There are several observations of the current situation:

- People "network connectivity" is based on seniority in the corporate environment and on submission of data to search portals, not skill, capability, or interest.
- Organizational turnover creates people-network gaps.
- Duplicated effort results from uncoordinated pockets of activity, such as sales people from different departments talking to the same customer.
- Lost productivity spent meeting with the wrong people, a critical misstep since today's marketplace demands increasingly faster speed of execution.
- There is no "trust" factor. It is difficult to assess whether a person is credible, honest, or representing themselves properly, particularly on the Internet, but also to some extent in corporate environments.
- People need a motivating mechanism in order to keep personal data updated

A.8.1. Collaboration: This function allows the user to submit new collaborative agents, check on the status of "hits" to his/her file cabinet, and check on the status of "hits" to his/her home page. It is important to note that this collects metrics that are used to determine the "value" of an idea. For example, if a particular person's innovation has received many "hits" from other users, then that is a good indication that the innovation has created value for the company. See Figure 38.

A.8.2. Agent: Users can enter search agents into the system. Each agent, which can be terms that are either related or unrelated to the user's innovations, scans the systems new submissions and home pages for key words. If located results are posted for later viewing. The agent searches both current and archived innovations, document management systems and home pages.

8.2.1. Automatic: This function builds a relationship profile based on the user's department, title, and file cabinet. This is supplemented by the user and available to the search engine.

8.2.2. Custom: This function allows the user to build their own profile. It includes fields of interest, title, department, research areas, etc.

A.8.3. Home Page Hits: This tells the user what other agents have found his/her home page as a source. So, if another user's agent finds my home page, then I am notified for follow-up as well.

A.8.4. File Cabinet Hits: Similar to above. If another agent finds used my file cabinet submission as a source, then I am notified.

A.9. NDA Tracker: This module allows the user to enter and track NDAs. Users enter time/date, attendees, document number, and company name as well as any IP that was disclosed. The system can generate an automatic NDA if necessary. These NDAs are linked back to existing IP.

B. Analysis/Ranking Module

This set of tools allows peer groups, IP counsel, or other trusted sources to rank and prioritize innovations that are entered (either through the Innovator or manually) into the system. The power of these tools is highlighted in their ability to quantify both objective and subjective measurement criteria. The rankings are aggregated and weighed relative to the company's strategic objectives, that is, a company can decide that financial factors such as development expense or ROI are more/less important than customer-relationship factors such as new product introductions or quality. Once ranked, innovations can then be compared against each other and scientific judgments can be made regarding level of investment. See Figure 39.

B.1. Collaboration: This functionality allows external/internal users to be automatically notified that they need to add their analysis of a particular idea. Notification can be automatically configured based on users' preferences, i.e., if I am an expert on neural networks, then I get notified automatically should any ideas in this topic area become available. Optionally, notification can be manual, where a link is sent to the desire person. The link is active and allows them to instantly access the analysis/ranking functions for that particular innovation.

B.2. Innovation Rating/Analysis: This functionality allows for the rating and prioritization of ideas/innovations in addition to files. This functionality includes entering idea descriptive information, rating the ideas according to the method defined below, and comparing the ratings of all ideas to determine the best places to make investments. As part of the analysis process, analysis requests are sent to independent people for valuation.

B.2.1. Rating

2.1.1. Rating Factors: this allows the user to enter the rating factor categories. After all categories are entered, the user can determine the relative importance of each factor with respect to goals, costs, or benefits, etc. The relative importance is determined by using the pair-wise comparison technique. Different importance

ratings can be saved, for example, one set of ratings might be used for healthcare ideas/innovations whereas another might be used for semiconductor innovations.

2.1.2. Rating Factors Variables: For each rating factor category, multiple questions/variables can be entered for evaluation. For example, for a rating factor of technical merit, the variables might be 1) difficulty to reproduce and 2) cost to reproduce. Variables are structured such that a numerical value can be entered or that a numerical value can be inferred, i.e., 1=bad, 10=good, or little=1 and large=10. Initially, these variables each receive equal weight, however, functionality to rate the relative importance of each of these variables is optionally contemplated.

2.1.3. Calculate Index: Based on the ratings of the individual variables, the index is calculated as follows: sum each category on a base of 100, then multiple that answer by the rating factor relative importance.

2.1.4. Comparative Analysis: In addition to rating innovations by absolute factors, they can also be ranked comparatively. In this manner, innovations are ranked relative to other user-selected innovations, i.e., Idea A versus Idea B. Even though ideas are ranked relatively, they are stilled assigned a numerical score based on the difference between the two ideas. In this case, a score of 5, for any particular factor indicates no difference between Idea A and Idea B, a score of 1 ranks Idea B much worse compared to Idea A, and a score of 10 indicates that Idea B is much better than Idea A.

2.1.5. Qualitative: As another ranking/analysis alternative, the user is given the option of adding non-quantitative measures as well. This is preferably manifested as a simple comment field, or a discussion of the relative merits versus competitors among others.

B.2.2. Routing: After the author has performed his/her analysis, links to the analysis web page can be sent to people for independent analysis. The author has the ability to pick from an IMS-generated list of people with the expertise required to send the analysis request to.

2.2.1. Analysis Valuation Points: People who are selected for an analysis request are awarded valuation points.

B.3. Valuation Manager:

B.3.1. Citations: Capability to relate new documents to previously generated documents. When a new innovation is submitted, there is an opportunity to list references. These references generate valuation points for the original author(s).

B.3.2. Searches/Hits: When a database search or collaboration search returns hits, these hits generate valuation points for the original author(s). The hits must be from unique users and the valuation is based on the relevance of the hit, i.e., if the hit is 65 out of 100, the valuation is lower than if the relevance was 3 out of 100.

B.3.3. Downloads: When a person actually downloads or views a returned "hit" then the original author receives valuation points.

B.3.4. NDA Tracker: IP that is listed within the context of an NDA also receives valuation points.

B.3.5. Analysis: The results of the analysis in B.2 above is another component in determining the overall valuation. Optionally, the people who perform the individual analysis are scored according to their total relevancy points. For example, if a person is recognized as the premier expert in a discipline, then that person's valuation has more impact on the overall score.

B.3.6. External: This assigns valuation points for Internet publications, hits on the Internet, and licensing of an innovation.

3.6.1. Internet Publication

3.6.2. Licensing

B.4. Accounting Analysis: This function accommodates the financial analysis of an innovation.

B.5. Innovation Marketing: This function provides marketing information to the user. Since information on innovations/ideas has already been enter through other parts of this system, this information can be properly formatted and then sent to third party databases for marketing leads. At these third party sites, marketing leads are automatically generated based on the input from the MMT system. Additionally, the user can add/modify information associated with an idea before it is sent so that a more complete marketing framework can be constructed. When the leads are returned to the system, this function automatically aggregates them and presents them to the user so that they can be used for follow-up, i.e., direct mail, phone, e-mail. Leads are annotated and tracked and can be exported to third-party contact managers.

C. Licensing Web Site & Intra-Organization Sharing

C.1. Innovation Exchanger: This function allows certain classes, key words, etc. of ideas to be published to an externally (unprotected) viewable location. The purpose of external publishing is to foster the development or use of ideas by other entities. By publishing basic information such as brief abstract, application area, and key words,

along with a unique id, external viewers can read the briefs and determine whether a particular idea is worth following up. If an external viewer was interested in gathering more information, he/she can click a button that automatically sends the ID number in an e-mail to the corporate IP (or other) department for consideration. This function records the exchange of e-mails concerning the innovation.

C.1.1. Internet Publisher: This function allows the user (providing they have correct access) to submit an idea for publication on the Internet. This is either on the organizations external Internet connected site or to the MMT Internet site. Users are able to select one or both, the date to publish, the duration to publish, expiration, contact point, and what types of information are to be made available, i.e., inventor's name, potential applications, category, score, etc.

C.1.2. Organization Intranet Publisher: This function is identical to C.1.1, however, it allows a separate configuration for internal viewing. Whereas a company may not want to have the inventor's name published to an external website, they may want it published internally.

D. Network Monitoring and Protection System

This Network Monitoring and Protection System preferably comprises some or all of three functional components: Agent Monitoring System (AMS), File Management Server (FMS), and a Trade Secret System (TSS). The system provides complete protection of trade secrets by defining what data is considered a secret, who is allowed access to the secrets, what type of access is permitted, and by enforcing policies for accountability, awareness, and security. See Figure 19.

The system can be used in at least two different modes: either with or without the Agent Monitoring System running. In the former, the client PC makes a request through the AMS, and the file is returned from the File Management Server into this process. In this case, the AMS and the FMS communicate with each other and the File Management Server provides trade secrets based on all of the available rules. In the latter mode, any client can be used to access files on the protected server. In this case, the AMS and the FMS do not communicate with each other, instead the File Management Server monitors the trade secrets and applies the protections based on the rules which do not include the user. See Figure 20. Other modes include:

- Full Protection Mode: The AMS along with the FMS and TSS are all running. This provides the ultimate level of protection as the trade secrets are fully wrapped and are monitored on the PC/client.

- Medium Protection: The AMS is not running, but the FMS is actively monitoring the trade secrets and is wrapping them with protections that can be employed when the AMS is not running. For example, the display of a visual warning, encryption, and password protection is available without the AMS.

D.1. Agent Monitoring System (AMS): The AMS resides on the client hardware, usually a PC, and monitors the user actions on the trade secret files. The AMS acts as a permissions agent, giving the ability to read, print, mail, etc the trade secret by the user. In some cases, the AMS communicates with the File Management Server concerning the use of the trade secret. These communications can either be batched or transmitted continuously.

D.1.1. Trade Secret Viewer: This is the central controlling process on the agent machine. It is the vehicle by which the user makes the request for the trade secret, it handles the incoming approved trade secret storage, launches any applications that are necessary to process the trade secret (for example, the user wants to print the trade secret out, then this process starts the word processor application), and this process sends activities it performs to the Trade Secret Monitor.

D.1.2. Event Manager: This function reads the wrapper on the trade secret and then schedules any events that are necessary, i.e., deleting or changing the trade secret after a certain number of days. This process also sends all activities to the TSS.

D.1.3. Trade Secret Monitor: The Trade Secret Monitor records all activities performed on a trade secret, and sends the events to the File Management Server. It can also watch for activities from any launched applications dealing with the trade secret, send reports, or watch a certain data area on the disk.

D.2. File Management Server (FMS): The FMS handles all requests for trade secrets from the AMS (user). The FMS checks the user name against a password list (network, asked via browser, employee id, etc) and verify the user before allowing a file request to be made. Once the user is verified, the trade secret requested file is matched with the rules associated with that particular trade secret, encrypted, wrapped with a monitoring agent, logged and sent back to the AMS. The File Management Server maintains information about trade secrets such as: artwork, designs, blue prints, tools, methods, patents, trademarks, copyrights, maskwork, computer files, databases, business logic (computer code and methods) and other proprietary information that may be defined from time to time. With respect to each type of intellectual property, the FMS maintains information on dates (last update,

when added, when deleted, various stages of property (patent pending, patent, etc), a description of the property, title, ownership, coverage, inventor/author, licensing, and supporting documents. The FMS contains all of the functionality to select files/directories/servers as trade secrets, create classes of trade secrets, create classes of users, apply permissions (encryption, visual notice, etc) to trade secrets, classes of trade secrets, users, or users of trade secrets, and to create rules by mapping trade secrets (or classes of trade secrets) to users (or users of trade secrets).

D.2.1. Request Handler: This process handles incoming trade secret requests, verifies the user from the network password list, initiates the request, and eventually sends back the requested file or a deny. This function can either be called directly such as the case with the AMS makes a specific request, or in "sniffer" mode it can watch the network traffic for files/transactions that have been designated as trade secrets.

D.2.2. Trade Secret Management: This function allows administrators to select/deselect files, directories, or servers/workstations, locations, etc to be used as trade secrets. The administrator selects by clicking a check box next to each file/directory/server/location. (Similar implementation as a Windows Backup program). Additional functions within this group allow for specific types of intellectual property to be described in more detail. For example, drawings may contain references to authors, creation dates, or products that incorporate the features described. Each type of intellectual property has its own set of attributes that can be tracked. See Figure 21.

D.2.3. Rules Management: This function allows the administrator to create rules. Rules are the mapping of trade secrets and trade secret classes to users and user classes. The administrator is allowed to add, change, or delete rules by rule number, class name, or user. The rule consists of a mapping (either one to many, one to one, many to many, or many to one) which describes the relationship between the intellectual property and the user(s). See Figure 22. See Figure 40.

D.2.4. Class Management: This function sets up classes of trade secrets and users for the rules. The purpose is to make rule definition faster. By setting entire classes of files as trade secrets, either by server, location, etc. then the rules can be set up once for the entire class instead of one file at a time.

D.2.4.1. Trade Secret Classes: This function consists of a listing of directories, servers, or grouping of files that consist of a class, the class name, and the permissions for the class. The list also contains previously selected files/directories/servers as well,

so that the administrator can select them and put them into a class. Administrators have the ability to add, delete, or modify classes. Trade secret classes can be viewed/sorted by trade secret, class, or permissions. See Figure 23.

D.2.4.2. User Classes: This function consists of a list of network users, their class, and the permissions of the for the class. The list also contains all network users as well, so that the administrator can select them and put them into a class. Administrators have the ability to add, delete, or modify classes. User classes can be viewed/sorted by user name, class, or permissions. See Figure 24. See Figure 25.

D.2.4.3. Permission Management: This function assigns permissions to user and trade secret classes. See Figure 26. For example, this allows the trade secret class "research" to have the permissions as designated in the Security Manager (D3.4). A permission can consist of the following attributes in any combination:

D.2.4.3.1. None: In this instance, no tracking is performed. In most cases, this de-activates existing rules.

D.2.4.3.2. Visual Warning: This presents a "blue screen" or some type of visual display on the client PC. This is displayed each time the trade secret is accessed, informing the user of the trade secret that the information is confidential (or some other messages entered by the administrators)

D.2.4.3.3. Password: This rule demands a password to access the trade secret each time it is accessed by the user. This can either be a password that is made up by the user when they initially download the trade secret, or it can be their normal network password, or a completely different password set by the administrator.

D.2.4.3.4. Encryption: This rule encrypts the trade secret by one of the commonly available methods set by the administrator.

D.2.4.3.5. Agent: This type of rule allows the trade secret to be monitored by tracking any modifications to the file (or alternatively the physical data), and monitoring key strokes. It also allows the trade secret to be deleted after a certain number of days automatically by the Agent Monitoring System residing on the PC. It can be further refined to perform NSA or other data segment erasing methods to ensure complete removal from the system. The agent also gives the option of sending tracking information back to the File Management Server for analysis by the administrator, or "insisting" that the agent be allowed to communicate with the FMS before any further actions are allowed on the trade secret.

D.2.5. File Wrapper System: This process is extremely complex as it grabs the file/data and performs the functions required in the rules, including encryption, setting expiration dates, translating the file to an executable image, called a wrapper (file+rules+agent), etc. The wrapper can also contain the Agent Monitoring System. The file/data can either be a specific file/data pulled in from the network via TCP/IP sniffing, a file/data pulled from a specific location, or the file/data that is a result of an external query (database call). All of these actions are logged. The executable image is in a format that can be processed (read, print, modify, delete, etc) by the Agent Monitoring System.

D.2.6. Reporting System :This process takes information from the log files, rules, wrappers, etc. and prepares reports on usage, activity etc.

D.3. Trade Secret System (TSS): This functional process manages the accountability, awareness, secrecy, and security (four trade secret pillars) status of each trade secret. This process also allows the user to dynamic change each of the four pillars to reflect strategic changes in the business. The TSS is the primary mechanism for creating the rules.

D.3.1. Awareness Manager: This function tracks and logs a company's (or entity's) IP Policies, management oversight procedures, the dissemination of an understanding of Public Disclosure (as defined by U.S. Law), the tracking and dissemination of What a Trade Secret is (according to U.S. Law). The purpose is to show that various supervision entities have created awareness for trade secrets as prescribed by law, and that the people who use the trade secrets have a clear understanding, and hence accountability of the trade secrets that they use.

D.3.1.1. Trade Secret Finder: This function determines potential trade secrets by "reading" files on the network and comparing the text with lists of key words and phrases entered by the management. This is designed to be used periodically to maintain integrity of the system. Final decisions regarding a documents status are made by management.

D.3.1.2. Trade Secret Eliminator: This function determines which trade secrets should be demoted and removed from protection. By searching by key word, date, and usage, the function intelligently makes recommendations for removal. Final removal is determined by management. See Figure 27.

D.3.2. Accountability Manager: This function tracks and logs a company's IP reviews, employment contracts/IP agreements. The purpose of this function is to track

contracts and paper trails that provide awareness of the trade secrets. Reports from this function give the complete detail on the level of trade secret usage/disclosure by aggregating class information, trade secret information, user activities, user awareness acknowledgments, and external data to give a rating as to the protectability of the trade secret. By measuring where the trade secret is used, how it is disclosed, how it is protected, and employee awareness a rating can be generated. Intelligent search function uses key words plus SIC Code and other market-specific information to conduct a more intelligent search. This function employs "spider" graphs and the pair-wise comparison methods described elsewhere herein.

D.3.3. Secrecy Manager: This function tracks and logs confidentiality agreements, publications, press releases, and marketing collateral associated with a company's trade secrets. This process maintains access to the external networks (Internet) and conducts key-word searches to find other companies/disclosures of monitored trade secrets. There are several third-party products that can be hooked into this system to perform this function. This process provides the interface.

D.3.4. Security Manager: This function tracks and logs public access to workspaces, network security, E-mail, and demonstrations. This process is the primary interface to e-mail monitoring programs and external physical security systems (tracking ID card usage, etc.)

This section further describes some typical use of the System. Because of the nature of the System, it is not always possible to numerically delineate an exclusive sequence of events, however, each subparagraph represents at least one (sometimes many) functional aspect of the system. There are three general functional flows presented in this section: the user, the administrator, and the manager. The user is the person who wants to view/modify the trade secret, the administrator sets up rules, wrappers, and files/directories/machines as trade secrets, and the manager defines trade secret policies and runs/views reports.

User Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

- If the name and password are valid, and the trade secret is allowed to be accessed by the user, then the file is wrapped according to the rules set forth by the administrator.
- Wrapping takes place in the File Management Server and creates a binary executable of the file with the wrapping contents. The wrapper can also contain the Agent Monitoring System (if the user does not have it, but it is required for file access).

· The file is sent back to the user's PC.

· The user double-clicks (or opens, or performs some other function which initiates access to the trade secret) on the trade secret file.

· If the wrapper required encryption, then the trade secret is decrypted.

· If the wrapper required a password, then the user is prompted for the password.

· If the wrapper required a visual warning, then a "blue screen" is presented to the user so that the confidentiality of the trade secret is described and the responsibilities to the user are presented.

· If the user types an invalid password X times, then the trade secret is rendered inoperable (either deleted or stays dormant), the appropriate logs are generated by the Agent Monitoring System, and if required the log information is sent to the File Management Server.

· If the Agent Monitoring System (AMS) has been activated, then it begins recording activities defined by the administrator that occur on the trade secret document.

· If the AMS receives a command from the user to view the trade secret, then the appropriate application is started (probably Adobe Acrobat with modification attributes set on startup) and the document is displayed. Depending on the user's pre-determined authorization, the application allows the user to read/write/delete/update the trade secret. Each action by the user is logged locally, and can be communicated back to the File Management Server.

· If the AMS determines that the trade secret should be deleted, then the AMS deletes the file and performs the secure erasing method. This activity is logged, and communicated back to the FMS is required.

· The user receives a mail message informing him/her that new IP policies are now in place and should be reviewed for compliance. The user reads the policy (on the internal web server) and responds by electronically signing the policy.

Administration Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

· The administrator sets up the File Management Server to be either in one of three modes: with the Agent Monitoring System running or without. If the Agent Monitoring System is running, this implies that the AMS software is either resident on the user's PC or the AMS software is wrapped with a requested file and sent to the user's PC to be installed before the trade secret is viewed. Using the AMS software

implies that a greater level of protection is operational as the AMS records information in addition to the File Management Server that records the initial request.

· The administrator further sets up the FMS by deciding whether the FMS should be set into "sniffer" mode, where it simply records requests/receipts of trade secrets, or whether it should be set to intervene between every receipt by appropriately wrapping the trade secret with protections.

· The administrator sets up the FMS to the type of network(s) being monitored, such as TCP, IPX, NetBUI, etc. and the types of network packets being tracked, such as IP, HTTP, etc.

· The administrator uses network services to set up the FMS server as a client in the system. This ensures that this server receives all updates about user access, including the network password list.

· The administrator runs the Trade Secret Finder to locate various trade secrets. First, the administrator entered key words, projects, locations, servers, etc. and the Finder presents a list of possible machines, folders, and documents to protect. This saves the administrator time in setting up the system.

· The administrator selects any combination of servers, directories, and files to be designated as trade secrets. If no other actions are performed, i.e., no rules are set up, then the FMS goes into default mode where it simply records the access to each trade secret. Access records contain file name, file location, user, date/time, and other identification.

· The administrator further designates classes of trade secrets. These classes group the trade secrets according to policy defined at the company, such as by physical location, by server, by company department, by directory, by trade secret type, etc.. For example, the administrator may assigned the trade secret class "research" to the servers located in the company's research lab in Seattle, Washington. This preferably consists of the five machines and their corresponding files and directories. In another example, the administrator may define the class "project X" to include the directories labeled C:\project_x on the servers in Tampa, Florida and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of defining classes is to make the application of rules simpler.

· The administrator further designates classes of users. These classes group users according to viewing restrictions. Classes can be defined by location, by job function, by current network access privileges, by department, by title, by name, etc. For example, the administrator may define all users who have the title "research

assistant" to a user class called "research-assistant" and to have view-only access to any trade secrets. In another example, the administrator may define users who reside in Orlando, Florida to have view and modify writes to any trade secrets, as well as the ability to delete trade secrets that have been downloaded to the users more than 30 days. Or simply, the administrator may select all users that live in Redmond, Washington to a class labeled "redmond".

· The administrator sets up rules by mapping either trade secrets or classes of trade secrets with users or classes of users, and by adding/modifying/deleting further file manipulation properties. For example, the administrator sets user class "research assistant" (which has view-only access) to trade secret class "research" (which can look at files on the Seattle, Washington server). In addition, the administrator may elect to further refine this rule by requiring that all trade secrets are also encrypted and password protected.

· If the company is managing assets loaded into third-party databases, i.e., Oracle, DB2, Access, then only classes of users can be designated.

· If databases are being monitored, then in addition to user name, date/time, and other identifying information, the FMS also records the database calls.

Manager Flow, Network Monitoring and Protection

· A manager decides to enter a new trade secret into the system. Since the physical file is already present on the company's network file system, the manager uses a Windows Explorer-like tool to find and select the desired file. Selection takes place by placing a check mark next to the file. Similarly, if the file is originally placed into an already protected directory, then the new file receives the same level of protection as the current files in the directory.

· The manager enters information regarding the ownership, economic value, and key words to be associated with the trade secrets.

· A manager decides to enter a new user. In this case, the manager uses a tool that brings up all users for the network. It is assumed that the new user has been added to the company's network file system. The manager then selects the user and either puts him/her into an existing class, creates a new class for that user, or assigns access rights to the individual user.

· The manager is presented with a monthly REVIEW FOR REMOVAL report indicating files that need to be re-verified as trade secrets. This report lists the trade secrets that are "owned" by him/her, the file, date, accesses, etc. These files were

either selected by the intelligent removal agent, or are generated by administrator direction in order to keep the system updated. The manager either checks or un-checks files that should be removed.

· The manager enters IP policy files into the Awareness Manager.

· The manager selects an IP policy or policies and a class or classes or users and requests that a notice be sent to all of the users (in the selected class) informing them of new IP policies.

· The manager later views a USER AWARENESS report that indicates which employees have read and responded to the new policies.

· The manager enters a new vendor contract, licensing agreement, joint venture, etc. document that includes the disclosure of certain corporate trade secrets. This document is tied to the trade secrets it covers so that trade secrets that leave the company and go into the hands of third parties can be tracked.

· When this third party relationship is terminated, a THIRD PARTY DISCLOSURE report of all disclosed trade secrets is printed, and the trade secrets are either destroyed (and marked accordingly in the system), or returned (and marked accordingly). The appropriate dates and other related information are entered into the system at this time.

· The manager prints out a trade secret along with a disclosure to give to a third party, this information is automatically recorded.

· A new employee is hired and entered into the system. Based on the user's assigned class, a set of materials (IP policies, non-disclosure, etc) are automatically generated and printed. When the documents are signed and returned to the employee file, this information is entered into the system.

· The manager prints a TRADE SECRET DISCLOSURE report that lists each trade secret, the users who have accessed it, what activities were performed on the trade secret, what the level of protection of the trade secret is, where it is located, and what third parties have the trade secret.

· The manager prints a USER DISCLOSURE report that details the trade secrets accessed by the user, the types of activities performed on the trade secret, and the time and date. Any obsolete trade secrets are listed as such, but all of the information is presented.

· An employee terminates their employment. Along with a USER DISCLOSURE report, a form which indicates that the user is leaving, and a notice which informs the

employee about their responsibilities to keep the listed trade secrets confidential. This form is entered into the employee file.

· The manager requests a PROTECTABILITY report. Based on the types of disclosures, activities, level of awareness of users, public disclosures, this report provides a rating as to the protectability of the trade secret. For example, if a trade secret has been accessed by users that have not read the IP policies, then the protectability is lower.

· The manager views a SECRECY report that details suspected exposure of the trade secret outside the corporate network as well as potential external information that could render the trade secret useless. The manager reviews this information and determines the extent of exposure for each entry in the list.

· The manager is presented with various reports from external IPX systems via the SECURITY report. This aggregates information about e-mail, physical security, etc., and relates it to the trade secrets. For example, e-mail scanners which have detected key words being sent to external parties might raise an alarm. Physical security which has been compromised where trade secrets are located is an indicator of trade secrets to be flagged for possible removal.

Further specification of the components of the System follows:

File Management System (FMS)

A File Management System is advantageously located on an MMT or other corporate server. LAN packet detector and decoder technology (such as from Packetboy, Australia; LinkView, www.linkview.com, US; NetSniffer, www.assert.ee/netsniffer/index.html; NetXRay, Cinco) is employed in a manner that will be known to those skilled in the art. The FMS exists in promiscuous mode, and reads the packets. Reading a packet generally means to decode packet contents, determine if it contains data (ie trade secret) that is being monitored by reading results of the action completed below with respect to marked selections of files being stored for monitoring. Monitored files are optionally and advantageously put into filters for the LAN detector; and positive filter results are placed into a file for use by the wrapper function described below. If the packet contains a trade secret, then it is sent to the wrapper application process

File Selection is preferably with check boxes (similar to Backup utilities). Functions are alternatively coded in VB using VTREE routines, or such like as may be known to those skilled in the art. All servers, directories, files are preferably

encompassed; servers, directories, as well as files may be selected by checking a box. Marked selections are then stored for monitoring, such as discussed above.

Trade secret classes are created (via custom VB functions, or the like or equivalent as will be known to those skilled in the art, such as HTML and Java coding equivalents to VB). The marked list from above, as modified by files suggested (or alternatively deselected) by a user as part of the Agent Monitoring System (AMS) process discussed below, is displayed. From here, selection and aggregation into classes proceeds, and input of trade secret attributes, type, date, value, etc. for later reports is set up, and permissions are assigned.

User classes are also created (via custom VB functions, or the like or equivalent as will be known to those skilled in the art, such as HTML and Java coding equivalents to VB). A network list of users is displayed, from which to select and aggregate into user classes, and permissions are assigned.

A rules comprises the identification of a trade secret with a user, (via custom VB functions, or the like, and the lists of trade secret classes and user classes from above are displayed and matched to create such rules. Permission assignment changes are permitted by authorized persons however.

Wrapper functions. A file name is received from the filter results function above. A check is made to see if the file name is located in a database of rules. If not, then all classes are checked. If still not located, then default rules are assumed. The file containing trade secret and view attributes is then encrypted, compressed, and zipped (if required), into a self-extracting exe called an .MMT (DataCloak) or other desired unique file extension, whereupon it is logged and sent to the requesting user.

Agent Monitoring System (AMS)

A PC sensor agent that performs monitoring of the trade secret based on the wrapper resides on each user machine. The wrapper and contents are decoded and given to the PC sensor agent monitor. In addition, disk activity and file activity on the PC are also monitored by a well known Filemon function, and keyboard activity is optionally monitored by a well known keyboard monitor function such as PCACME. Report of all monitored activities is sent to the TSS described below.

When the user clicks on a .MMT file, a File Viewer is automatically run that decrypts the file, asks for password, shows warning, etc first, and then runs a conventional file viewer such as that provided by Adobe. The file can be displayed,

printed or modified using Adobe, if Adobe is so configured on the system.. All such activities are logged as described above.

Using an otherwise conventional Explorer type interface, a user may use a Make Trade Secret function as add-on to Explorer and so add check marks to a list of files to be treated as trade secrets, as discussed above. Necessary TS attributes are optionally prompted for. The file and attributes are sent in a message to an IP manager. Trade secrets may be removed in a like but reciprocal manner, where one of the prompted attributes is a reason for removal.

Trade Secret System (TSS)

All logs from the above processes are collected for Accountability and Awarenes. For Accountability, there are provided optionally a File Access report (by user, file, date, type, class, activities), a User report (by activities, file, type, class), a Value report (by trade secret type, file, user, class), a PC Agent report (by user, file, action, class, activities), and an External Publications cross-reference report. For Awareness, users and management alike can view (or enter) IP Policies, cross referenced by file and class, and a Share Policies function makes policies available on the web, to induce and promote employee compliance. Appropriate users can also view/enter IP Contracts, cross referenced by file and class.

A Secrecy Manager is provided preferably in the form of an Internet agent looking on the web for key word references that are linked to listed trade secrets that reports back with listings of suspected TS usage (in a manner like Web Ferret).

A Security Manager interfaces with workspace security and with e-mail security and logs all external activities.

With respect to Figures 44-65, the drawings, containing as they do unusually large amounts of text compared to more conventional patent disclosures, constitute the preferred embodiment for carrying out the inventive intentions of this disclosure. It is presently believed that the means by which the various schemes herein disclosed, such as programming of web pages, back end databases, networking, internet programming, and the like are all well within the knowledge of those skilled in the computer and internet programming arts, and as such are not required to be recited in this disclosure.

In compliance with the statute, the invention has been described in language more or less specific as to structural features. It is to be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the specific features shown, since the means and

construction shown comprise preferred forms of putting the invention into effect. The invention is, therefore, claimed in any of its forms or modifications within the legitimate and valid scope of the appended claims, appropriately interpreted in accordance with the doctrine of equivalents.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for automatically summarizing company innovations, the system using intelligent agents to automatically perform searches on the Internet to find competing or encroaching ideas, the system generating reports which list potential competitive strengths or weaknesses.

2. A system for streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets, wherein the system identifies, classifies, compiles, tracks and routes real-time data automatically on a continuous basis, and provides instant access to stored database information, such as trade secret archives, patent filings, computed valuations, user information and a variety of detailed reports, further wherein an employee has instant access to her latest innovations and proprietary materials, and constant supervision over them.

3. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a query engine to determine and report some or all of the ideas that an individual has submitted over a selected time period.

4. The system of Claim 4 further wherein employee performance, overall corporate innovation levels, and qualified and motivated employees are measured and determined in accordance with the innovations entered by employees into the system.

5. The system of Claim 1 further wherein the employee enters hours spent, along with other resources that contributed to the innovation, so that IP assets can be assigned tangible values and tracked on the company's balance sheet.

6. The system of Claim 1 further wherein employees enter their intellectual creations (documents, ideas, schematics, etc.) and receive an immediate, time/date certification therefor.

7. The system of Claim 6, further wherein the employee can link more details on each submission, and other users can email comments and suggestions directly to the author, or optionally submit their own improvements as a new or supplemental innovation.

8. A system for web based development and exploitation of IP, the system comprising:

a. an innovator attraction module;

b. a developer attraction module;

c. a registration module;

d. a match module;

whereby the registration module is adapted to accept and store dated related to an innovator and the innovator's innovation in an innovation database, and further whereby the match module is adapted to match a registered innovation and innovator with a developer having stated requirements and resources for development.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the database is operably stored for random retrieval on a storage medium.

10. The system of Claim 8, further wherein updates and changes to innovation related data are also stored in the innovation database.

11. The system of Claim 8, further wherein the match module is adapted to match one or more innovations with one or more developers.

12. The system of Claim 8, further comprising a tracking module, whereby any status or outcome of any matching activity related to the innovation is made available to a user.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein any status or outcome of any matching activity related to the innovation is also operably stored in a tracking database for later retrieval by a user.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein status or outcome of matching activity is fed for storage to the innovation database.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein the innovation database and the tracking database are interoperably connected for data sharing.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein at least one module resides on a computing device.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein at least one different module resides on a different computing device, and the two computing devices are interconnected for data communication over an information network.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the information network is a global information network.

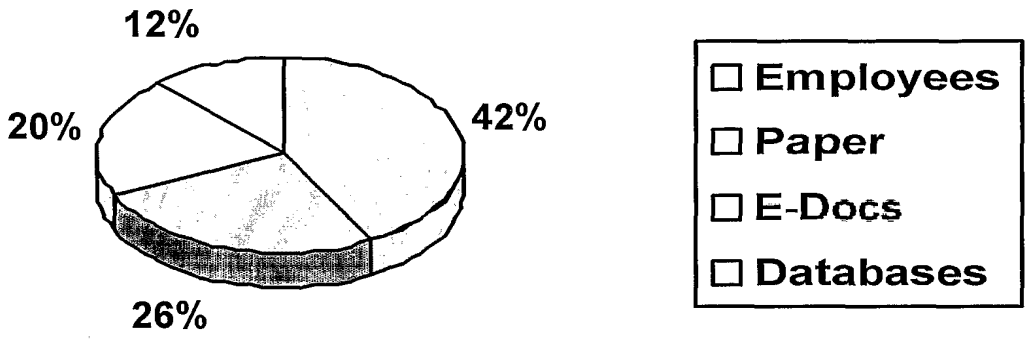


Figure 1a

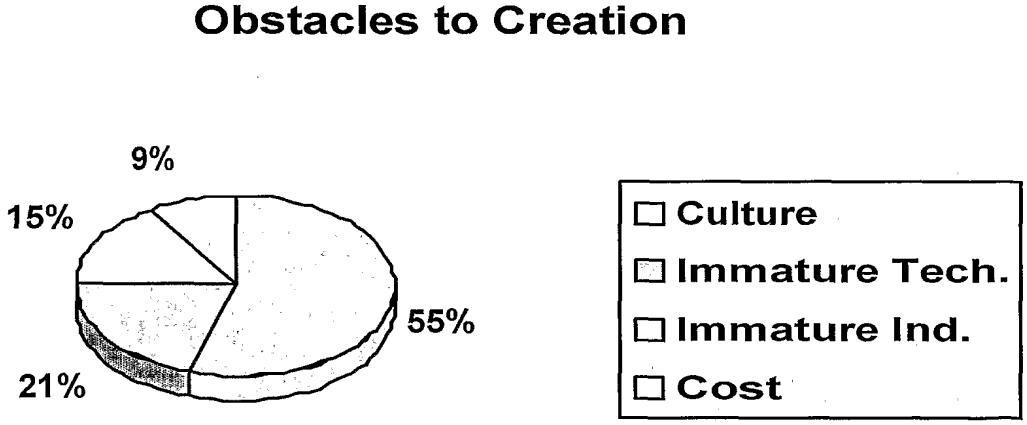


Figure 1b

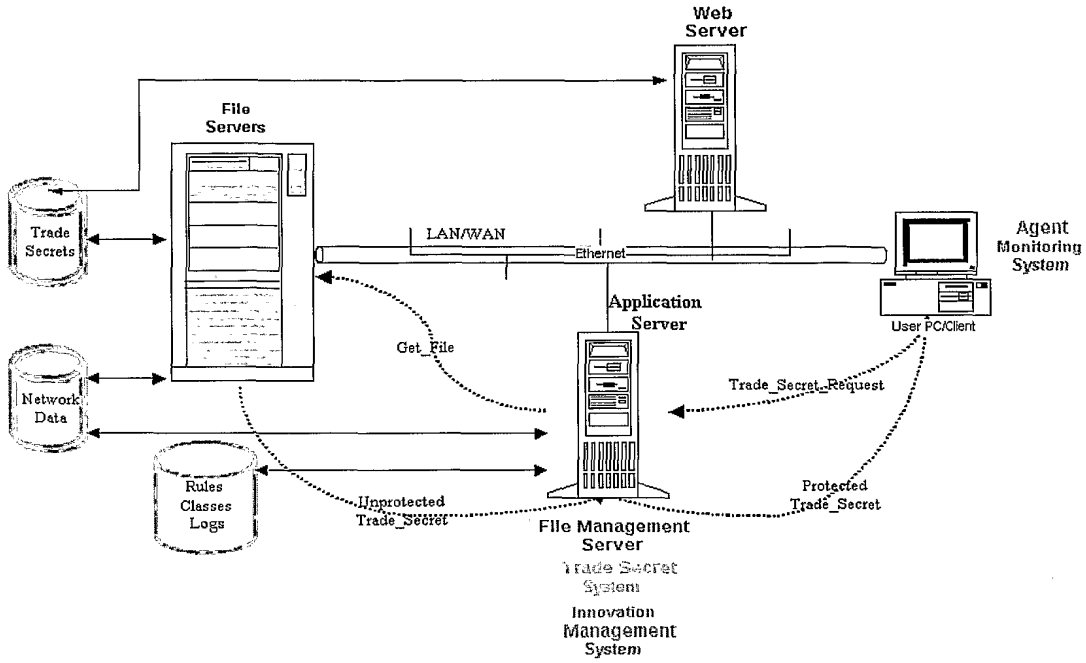

Web Server
File Servers
Trade Secrets
LAN/WAN
Ethernet
Agent Monitoring System
Application Server
User PC/Client
Get_File
Trade_Secret_Request
Network Data
Rules Classes Logs
Unprotected Trade_Secret
Protected Trade_Secret
File Management Server
Trade Secret System
Innovation Management System

Figure 2

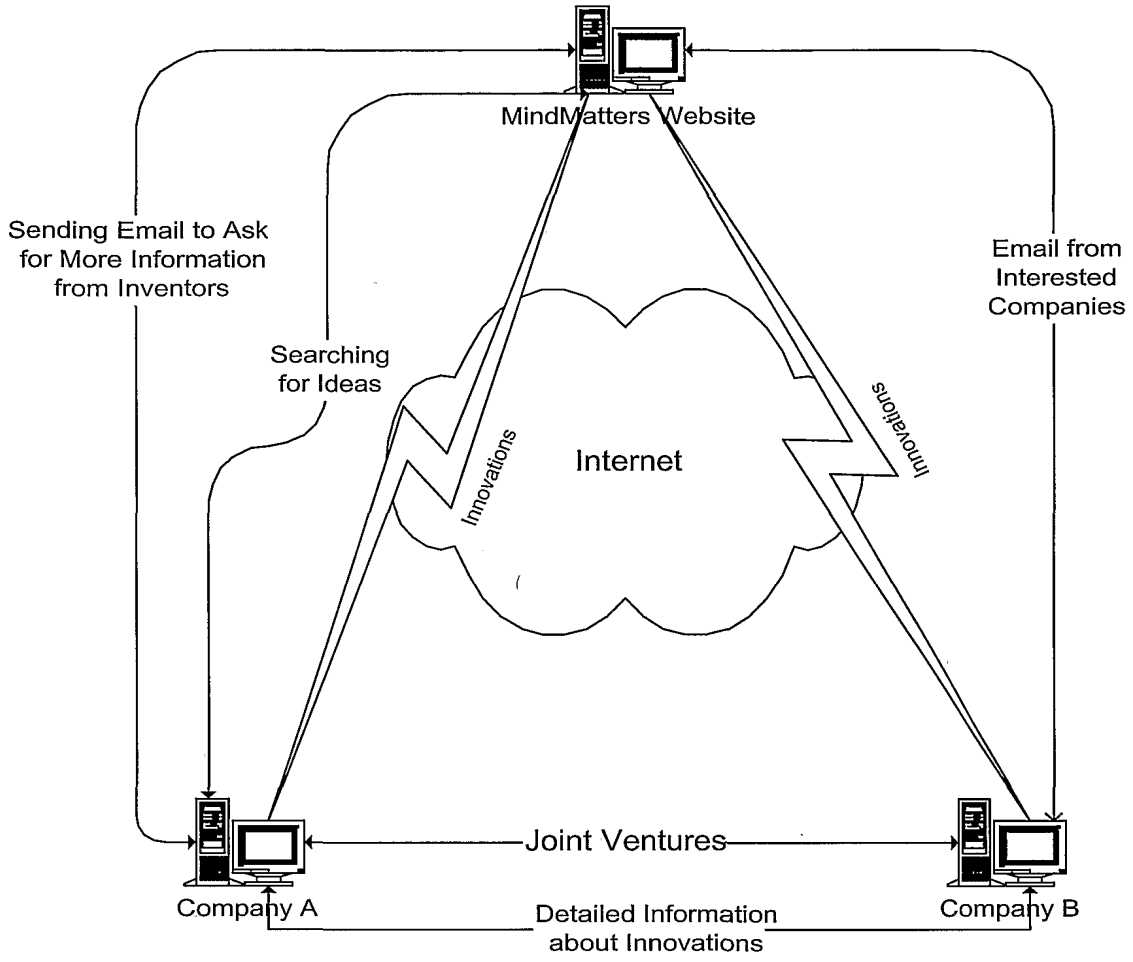
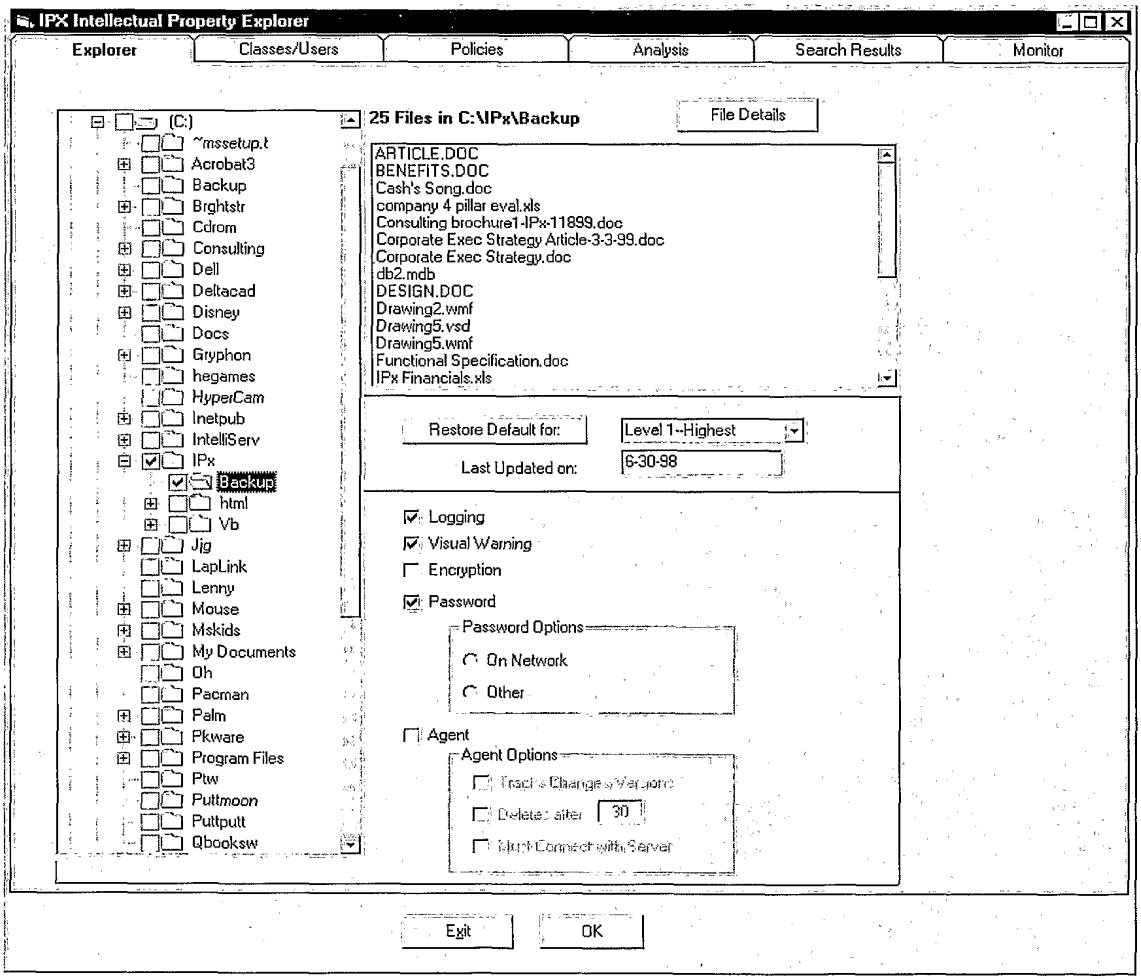

MindMatters Website
Sending Email to Ask for More Information from Inventors
Email from Interested Companies
Searching for Ideas
Innovations
Internet
Innovations
Joint Ventures
Company A
Company B
Detailed Information about Innovations

Figure 3


IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
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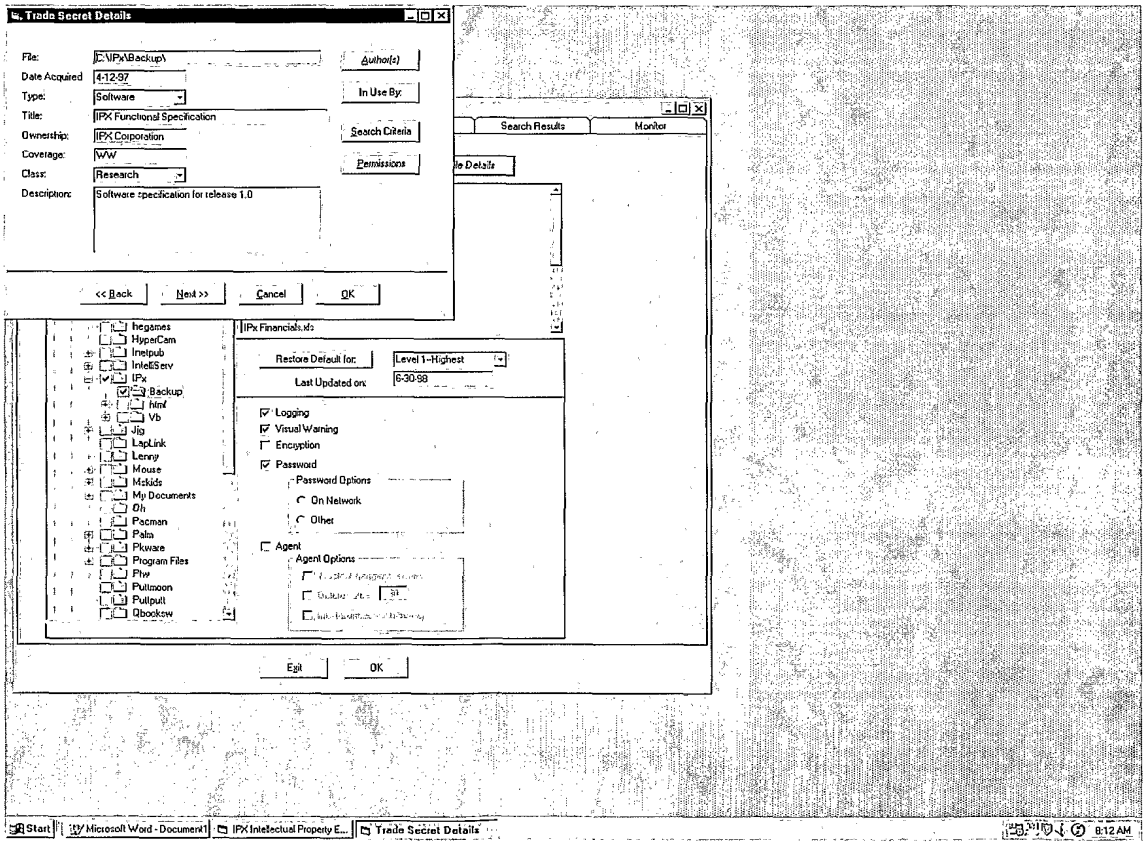
~mssetup.t
Acrobat3
Backup
Brghtstr
Cdrom
Consulting
Dell
Deltacad
Disney
Docs
Gryphon
hegames
HyperCam
Inetpub
IntelliServ
IPx
Backup
html
Vb
Jig
LapLink
Lenny
Mouse
Mskids
My Documents
Oh
Pacman
Palm
Pkware
Program Files
Ptw
Puttmoon
Puttputt
Qbooksw
25 Files in C:\IPx\Backup
File Details
ARTICLE.DOC
BENEFITS.DOC
Cash's Song.doc
company 4 pillar eval.xls
Consulting brochure1-IPx-11899.doc
Corporate Exec Strategy Article-3-3-99.doc
Corporate Exec Strategy.doc
db2.mdb
DESIGN.DOC
Drawing2.wmf
Drawing5.vsd
Drawing5.wmf
Functional Specification.doc
IPx Financials.xls
Restore Default for:
Level 1--Highest
Last Updated on:
6-30-98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Delete after
30
Exit
OK

Figure 4a


Trade Secret Details
File:
C:\IPx\Backup\
Author(s)
Date Acquired
4-12-97
In Use By:
Type:
Software
Title:
IPX Functional Specification
Search Criteria
Ownership:
IPX Corporation
Coverage:
WW
Permissions
Class:
Research
Description:
Software specification for release 1.0
<< Back
Next >>
Cancel
OK
Search Results
Monitor
IPx Financials.xls
Restore Default for:
Level 1--Highest
Last Updated on:
6-30-98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Exit
OK
Start
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IPX Intellectual Property E...
Trade Secret Details
8:12 AM

Figure 4b

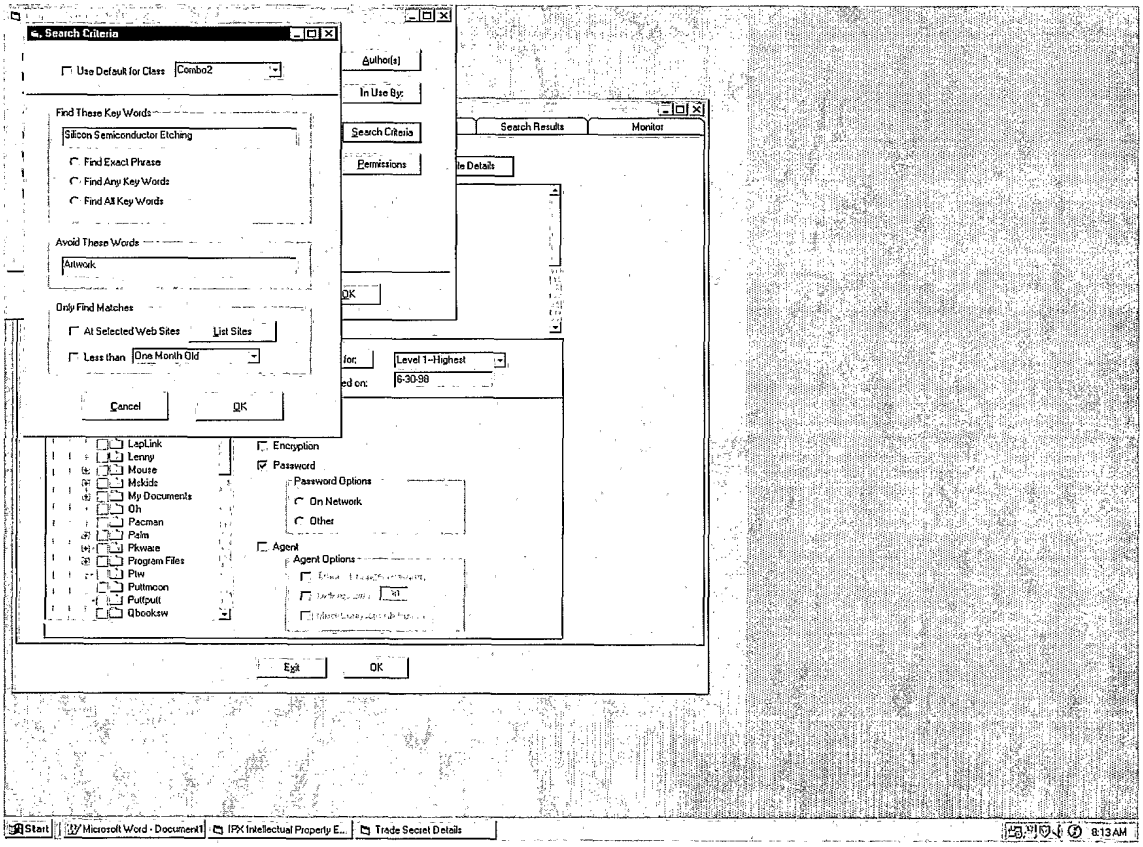
Search Criteria
Use Default for Class
Combo2
Find These Key Words
Silicon Semiconductor Etching
Find Exact Phrase
Find Any Key Words
Find All Key Words
Avoid These Words
Artwork
Only Find Matches
At Selected Web Sites
List Sites
Less than
One Month Old
Cancel
OK
Author(s)
In Use By:
Search Criteria
Permissions
Search Results
Monitor
Level 1--Highest
6-30-98
LapLink
Lenny
Mouse
Mckids
My Documents
Oh
Pacman
Palm
Pkware
Program Files
Ptw
Pullmoon
Putputt
Qbooksw
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Exit
OK
Start
Microsoft Word - Document1
IPX Intellectual Property E...
Trade Secret Details
8:13 AM

Figure 4c

MindMatters

Innovator

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

File Cabinet

edit

File Search: [ ] [search]

All Files | Latest

Sort By: [Date]

Title	Documents	Other Authors	Status	Last Update	Search Agent	Create Date	IP Class	Protection
Neural Network Optical Driver	C:\MMT_private	Smith, Jones, Gabrick		11/29/99	Yes	11/29/99	Hardware	Executive Only
Software System For AI Internet Searching	\\Bellevue\C\ProjectX	Orlowski		8/2/98		8/2/98	Software	All Employees
HTML Authoring Tools	C:\IPX\Plans\Test	N.A.		6/30/95	Yes	6/30/95	Software	Department Only
NE126 Product Improvements	C:\Java\NE126	N.A.		5/28/93		5/28/93	Improvement	Department Only
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	\\Allegheny\D\Robots	Elston		1/11/92	Yes 5 Results	1/11/92	New	All Employees
Software System For AI Internet Searching	\\Bellevue\C\ProjectX	Orlowski		8/2/98		8/2/98	Software	All Employees
Neural Network Optical Driver	C:\MMT_private	Smith, Jones, Gabrick		11/29/99	Yes	11/29/99	Hardware	Executive Only
HTML Authoring Tools	C:\IPX\Plans\Test	N.A.		6/30/95	Yes, 2 Results	6/30/95	Software	Department Only
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	\\Allegheny\D\Robots	Elston		1/11/92	Yes	1/11/92	New	All Employees

Setup

Figure 4d

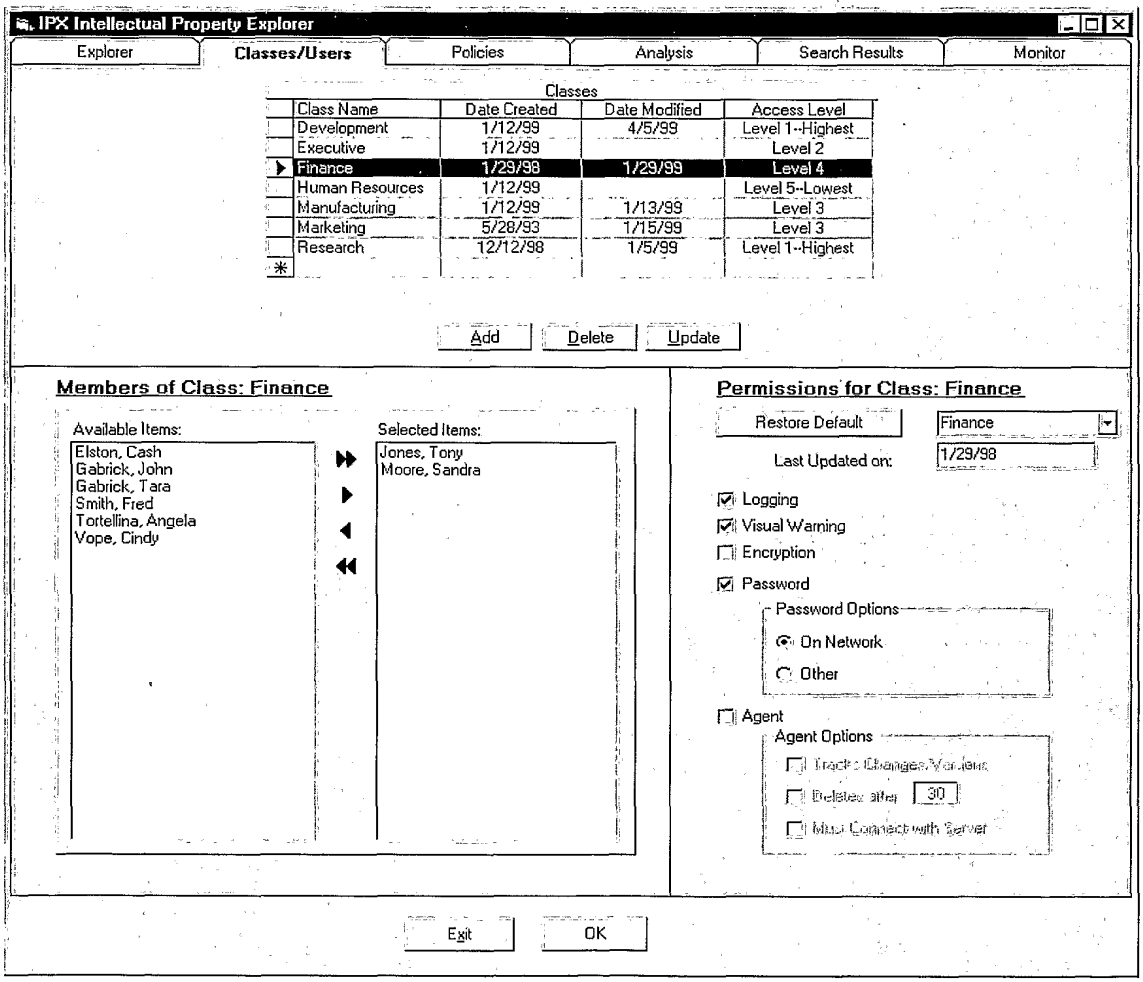
IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Classes
Class Name
Date Created
Date Modified
Access Level
Development 1/12/99 4/5/99 Level 1--Highest
Executive 1/12/99 Level 2
Finance 1/29/98 1/29/99 Level 4
Human Resources 1/12/99 Level 5--Lowest
Manufacturing 1/12/99 1/13/99 Level 3
Marketing 5/28/93 1/15/99 Level 3
Research 12/12/98 1/5/99 Level 1--Highest
Add
Delete
Update
Members of Class: Finance
Available Items:
Elston, Cash
Gabrick, John
Gabrick, Tara
Smith, Fred
Tortellina, Angela
Vope, Cindy
Selected Items:
Jones, Tony
Moore, Sandra
Permissions for Class: Finance
Restore Default
Finance
Last Updated on:
1/29/98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Delete after
30
Exit
OK

Figure 5a

Innovator Human Resources

Home Page • Edit • Help

Smith, John

SS#	Hire Date	Title	E-Mail	Location	Dept.	ID#	Manager
123-45-6789	*6-30-1995*	*Mgr, Development*	*Smith@mmt.com*	*Pittsburgh*	*5600*	*IA8592*	*Gerstner*

Innovations

Title	Status	Date
Neural Network Optical Driver		3-2-00
Software System For AI Internet Searching		1-3-98
HTML Authoring Tools		8-19-96
NE126 Product Improvements		6-12-96
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor		11-5-95

Exit Interview Checklist

- Review Confidentiality Procedures ☐
- Remind of Continuing Obligations ☐
- New Employment, Competitive Assessment ☐
- Review Proprietary Access Log ☐
- Compliance Sign-off ☐ FormR4.99

Proprietary Projects

Alpha 470 JR-574 XR 3147 XZ-99383 JG-873497
Beta 391 Beta 646 Beta 989 Beta 877
X15

Print Compliance Forms

Route to Counsel

Recent Activity

1. Submitted New Innovation: Optical Enabler 2/1/99
2. Proprietary Materials Download 3/15/99
3. Class 1 Trade Secret Accessed 3/17/99
4. Proprietary Materials Download 4/1/99
5. File Transfer via email 4/15/99
6. File Transfer via email 5/1/99
7. Trade Secret Warning Alert 6/15/99
8. Provisional Patent Access... 6/30/99

Figure 5b

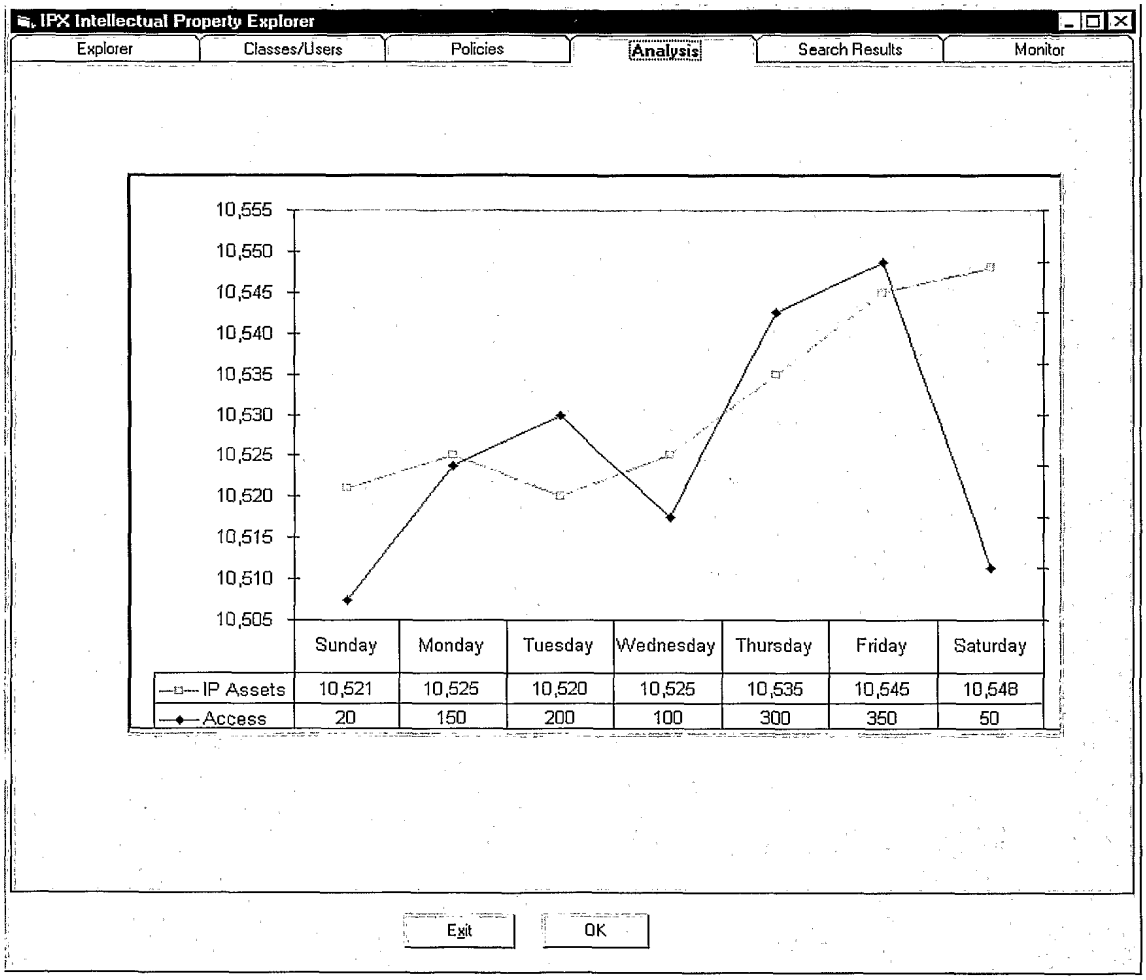
IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
10,555
10,550
10,545
10,540
10,535
10,530
10,525
10,520
10,515
10,510
10,505
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
IP Assets
10,521
10,525
10,520
10,525
10,535
10,545
10,548
Access
20
150
200
100
300
350
50
Exit
OK

Figure 6

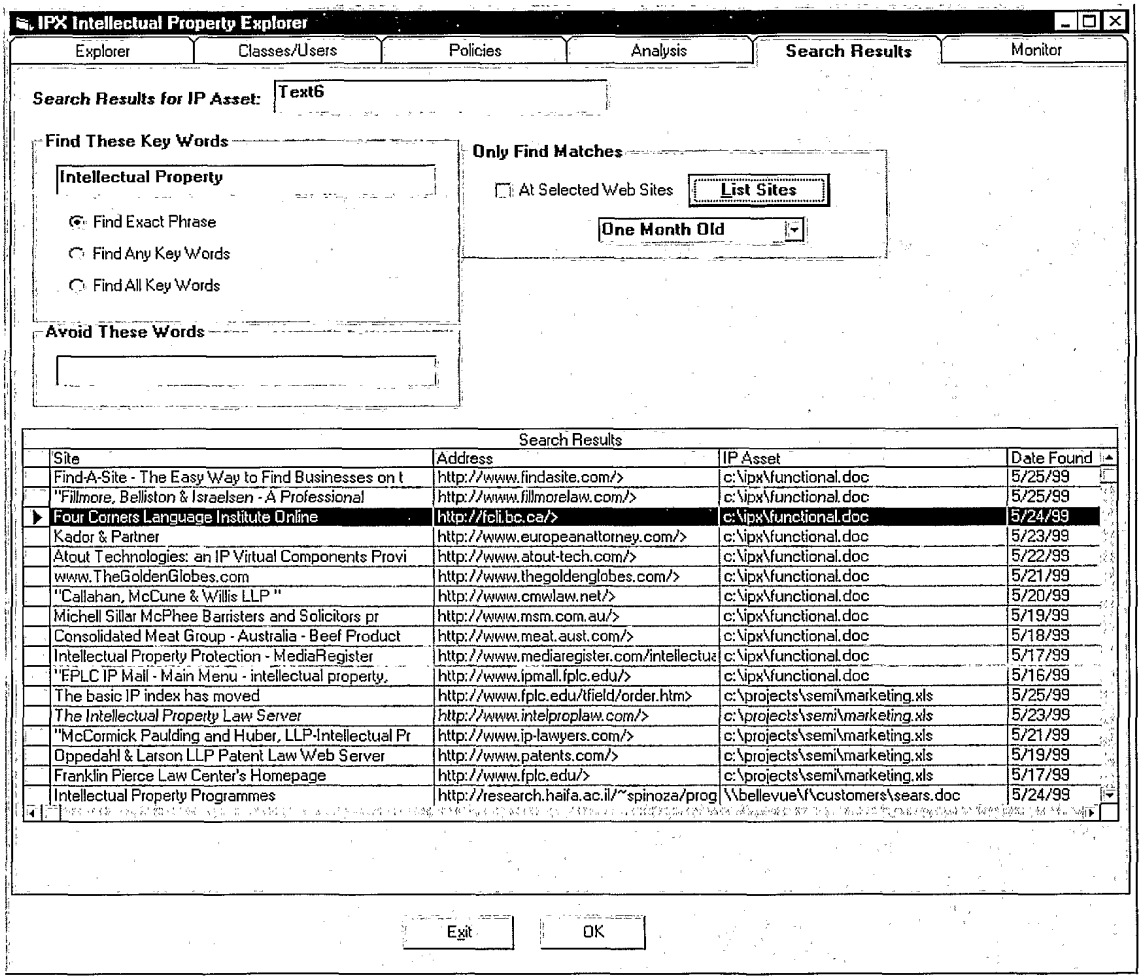
IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Search Results for IP Asset:
Text6
Find These Key Words
Intellectual Property
Find Exact Phrase
Find Any Key Words
Find All Key Words
Avoid These Words
Only Find Matches
At Selected Web Sites
List Sites
One Month Old
Search Results
Site
Address
IP Asset
Date Found
Find-A-Site - The Easy Way to Find Businesses on t
http://www.findasite.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/25/99
"Fillmore, Belliston & Israelsen - A Professional
http://www.fillmorelaw.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/25/99
Four Corners Language Institute Online
http://fcli.bc.ca/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/24/99
Kador & Partner
http://www.europeanattorney.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/23/99
Atout Technologies: an IP Virtual Components Provi
http://www.atout-tech.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/22/99
www.TheGoldenGlobes.com
http://www.thegoldenglobes.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/21/99
"Callahan, McCune & Willis LLP "
http://www.cmwlaw.net/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/20/99
Michell Sillar McPhee Barristers and Solicitors pr
http://www.msm.com.au/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/19/99
Consolidated Meat Group - Australia - Beef Product
http://www.meat.aust.com/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/18/99
Intellectual Property Protection - MediaRegister
http://www.mediaregister.com/intellectua
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/17/99
"EPLC IP Mall - Main Menu - intellectual property,
http://www.ipmall.fplc.edu/>
c:\ipx\functional.doc
5/16/99
The basic IP index has moved
http://www.fplc.edu/tfield/order.htm>
c:\projects\semi\marketing.xls
5/25/99
The Intellectual Property Law Server
http://www.intelproplaw.com/>
c:\projects\semi\marketing.xls
5/23/99
"McCormick Paulding and Huber, LLP-Intellectual Pr
http://www.ip-lawyers.com/>
c:\projects\semi\marketing.xls
5/21/99
Oppedahl & Larson LLP Patent Law Web Server
http://www.patents.com/>
c:\projects\semi\marketing.xls
5/19/99
Franklin Pierce Law Center's Homepage
http://www.fplc.edu/>
c:\projects\semi\marketing.xls
5/17/99
Intellectual Property Programmes
http://research.haifa.ac.il/~spinoza/prog
\\bellevue\f\customers\sears.doc
5/24/99
Exit
OK

Figure 7a

John's Innovator Page

MM MEMBER EVALUATION BOARD
M DISTINGUISHED PATENT FELLOW 1998
Home Page • Edit • Help

Innovation Database Search

Key Word(s)

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

Search Parameters

Results MUST NOT contain | the phrase

Results SHOULD contain | the phrase

Start Search | Reset

Figure 7b

NDA Tracker

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

New NDA

Search for: Search
Advanced Search

Non-Disclosure Agreements

Search: Sort: Date Filter: Status

Date	Organization	Attendees	Status
3-12-00	International Business Machines	Susan Smith, John Jones, Tim Orlowski	
6-1-99	Sun Microsystems		
11-29-98	Alcoa		
5-12-97	Microsoft--Operating Systems Group		
1-11-92	Microsoft--Operating Systems Group		
10-15-90	Procter & Gamble		

Figure 7c

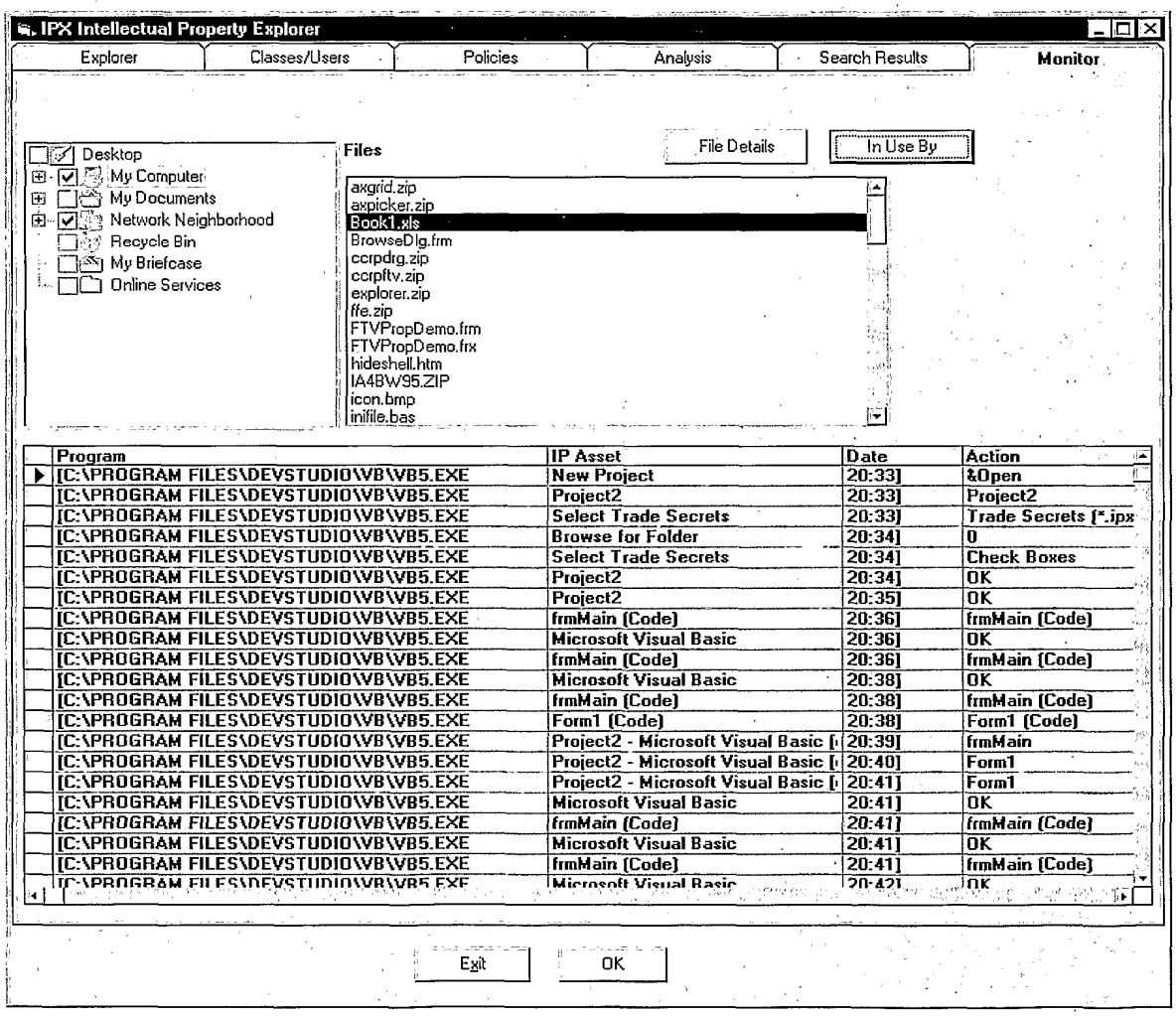
IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Desktop
My Computer
My Documents
Network Neighborhood
Recycle Bin
My Briefcase
Online Services
Files
File Details
In Use By
axgrid.zip
axpicker.zip
Book1.xls
BrowseDlg.frm
ccrpdrg.zip
ccrpftv.zip
explorer.zip
ffe.zip
FTVPropDemo.frm
FTVPropDemo.frx
hideshell.htm
IA4BW95.ZIP
icon.bmp
inifile.bas
Program
IP Asset
Date
Action
[C:\PROGRAM FILES\DEVSTUDIO\VB\VB5.EXE
New Project
20:33]
&Open
Project2
Select Trade Secrets
Trade Secrets [*.ipx
Browse for Folder
0
Select Trade Secrets
Check Boxes
OK
frmMain (Code)
Microsoft Visual Basic
Form1 (Code)
Project2 - Microsoft Visual Basic
20:39]
frmMain
20:40]
Form1
20:41]
Exit
OK

Figure 8a

MindMatters

Innovator

☆ Member Evaluation Board 2000
☆ Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
☆ Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

Personal Home Page Hits

	Search Term	Who	Date
1.	Software Intelligence	124.34.5.113 View Results | Delete	1-13-00
2.	Internet Searching	124.34.5.120 View Results | Delete	2-4-00
3.	Neural Network	124.34.5.126 View Results | Delete	2-4-00

File Cabinet Hits (Internal)

	Title	Hits
1.	Software System For AI Internet Searching	0
2.	NE126 Product Improvements	1
3.	Biometric Nanocircuit	0
4.	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	1
5.	Browser Search Agent	0

Collaboration Agents

	Title	Posted	Hits
1.	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	11-29-99	5
2.	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	1-2-00	1

Create New Agent

Tips
View: View runs the agent.
Edit: Make changes to your agent any time.
Delete: Permanently remove your agent.

Figure 8b

IPX Innovator

Welcome to the IPX Innovator

Intellectual Property has become the hottest topic around, and one of the most contested areas of employment today. IPX is seeking to reward employees who disclose novel innovations in more than just a trivial way. We want you to be fairly compensated and acknowledged for your added value at the company.

Use this web site to submit new ideas, check on the status of your idea or others at the company, or search for ideas that you may be able to improve on in our archives.

Top 10 Submissions
This Month
Last Month
This Year
All

Search
Mgmt Tools

Figure 9a

17/91

Innovator

☆ Member Evaluation Board 2000
☆ Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
☆ Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

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Submit Innovation
Personal Status
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Company Performance
Marketing Leads
NDA Tracker
Idea Discussion
Innovation Database
Publish Bio
Collaborate
Best Practices
Configure

NEW New Product Specs!!
NEW Article by John Corlene, Corporate Counsel
NEW Innovator User Contributions

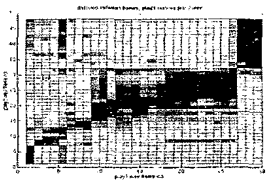
Database Search
Search for:
Advanced Search
Start Search

Most Active edit

Date Quarterly Finalists Most Prolific Best New Departments Locations Alphabetical More...

1. John Smith, *Neural Network Optical Driver*
2. Tim Balushi, *Software Optimization for CNC Drives*
3. Martha Jones, *Robotic Force Feedback*
4. Julie Selleck, *IP Accounting System*
5. John Smith, *Neural Network Optical Driver*
6. Tim Balushi, *Software Optimization for CNC Drives*
7. Martha Jones, *Robotic Force Feedback*
8. Julie Sun, *IP Accounting System*
9. Carole Williams, *New Grammy Hit*
10. Martha Jones, *E-Commerce One-Click System*

Spotlight



NEW

Susan Jones, Bryan Beem, and John Wayne's Voice Recognition for Embedded Systems As consumer products get more and more complex, there is a need for an easier means of interaction with these complex machines. One way to make interaction smoother is by allowing interaction through natural language. More...

New Analysis Request!!

File Cabinet edit

Search: Sort: Date Filter: Neural

Date	Title	Status	Search
3-12-00	Neural Network Optical Driver		
6-1-99	Software System For AI Internet Searching		
11-29-98	HTML Authoring Tools		
5-12-97	NE126 Product Improvements		
1-11-92	Robotic Force Feedback Sensor		
10-15-90	Biometric Nanocircuit		
8-6-89	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides		
4-31-89	Browser Search Agent		

Collaboration Agents edit

Date	Title	Status
3-12-00	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	
6-1-99	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	

Performance Ratings edit

All New By Category Details By Department By Location More...

Figure 9b-1

Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

Education Center

edit

124 articles

What is a Trade Secret? *Is that new java applet you're writing a company trade secret, you may be surprised to find out it isl, Cassius Jones*, MMT IP Counsel

Employee Rights *Who Owns Your Ideas?, Bailey, F.*

Is it a Patent? *New focus on software patents for the company, Cassius Elston*, MMT IP Counsel

Pepsico vs. Gatorade? *Sometimes the law doesn't make sense. Find out what happened and be informed. J. Gabrick*, MMT IP Counsel

Evaluation Committee Guidelines *Review Committee, 6-22-00*

More Articles...

Figure 9b-2

Submit A New Innovation

Thank you for submitting a new innovation at Your Corporation. The information that you enter will help to make our company more productive AND it will help to create a more lucrative environment for you personally. After you submit an idea, the submission will automatically be routed to your immediate supervisor (unless you request differently) and to the Independent Review Committee. After the information has been reviewed by the Committee, you will receive feedback about the status of your submission by checking this web site. All plausible ideas will be result in a financial reward, whether the idea is used or not. If your idea has greater potential, you may be asked (or you may volunteer) to be part of a special task force which examines the idea in more detail and submits a business justification for continued investment. If selected, your idea could be worth enough to allow you to retire. Thanks for participating, and remember to view the status of your submissions on the Status web page. Thank you.

1) Name:

2) Location:

3) E-Mail:

4) Innovation Type

- ☐ New Idea
- ☐ Process Improvement
- ☐ Competitive Tactic
- ☐ Patent
- ☐ Other (Please specify):

5) Key Words Used to BRIEFLY Describe Innovation

Figure 10a

Innovator

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page · Edit · Help

Submit Innovation

[Conventional navigational Explorer Tree omitted]

Inventor(s) Information

	Name	Location	Dept.	ID#
Contributor 1	John Gabrick	Pittsburgh	5600	1A8592
Contributor 2	Cash Elston	Redmond	5600	1A5623
Sponsor	Tom Jones	Seattle	8700	9A7612

Lookup

Innovation Information

Innovation Name: Neural Network Optical Driver

Innovation Type: Business-to-Business

Supporting Electronic Documents: C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc

Supporting Paper Documents: Title, Date, Type, Location

Generate Barcode

Description: This system automatically updates a adjusts to changes in ambient light Users are able to build robotic gui systems that adapt to any lighting

Key Words: Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance

Protection Information

Route to Corporate Counsel? ☐ yes

Potential Trade Secret? ☐ yes

Initial Protection Level: Department Only

Warning Message:

Encryption ☐ yes

Has This Innovation Been Disclosed to Anyone Other Than the Inventors? ☐ yes, if yes to whom

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Submit Idea | Clear all answers

Figure 10b

SEARCH RESULTS

New Search | Previous Results | Next Results

24 documents found for query: database

Displaying results 1 - 24

Submissions	Name	Location	Innovation	Date
*****	Gabrick, John	Pittsburgh	Html Wizard	5-22-98
***	Elston, Cassius	Seattle	Fabrication Design	4-21-98
**	Smith, Frederic	San Francisco	IP Mgmt Software	1-11-99
**	Jones, Josephine	Boston	New Light	8-05-99

Figure 11a

Search Results

Rank	Status	Information	Location	Details	Date
99%	External	New Neural Network Optical Driver in use by Ariva's	http://www.ariva.com/test.html	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
98%	Internal	Network Optical Drivers	\\bellevue\ServerA_1\\C:\NOD	Corbis, John Mgr., PVc Development 412-388-1221 smith@us-mmt.com	5/25/00
98%	External	The Intellectual Property Site	http://www.gm.com	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
98%	External	Oppedahl & Larson LLP Patent Law Web Server	http://www.patents.com	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
70%	External	Franklin Pierce Law Center's Homepage	http://www.fplc.edu	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
68%	Internal	Intellectual Property Law	\\bellevue\f\customers\eagle.doc	Jones, Cash Dir., Strategy 412-388-8254 jones@jp-mmt.com	5/25/00
65%	External	Intellectual Property Checklist	http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/	Neural Network Optical Driver ICS781	5/25/00
65%	External	IBM Intellectual Property Network	http://www.patents.ibm.com		5/25/00
50%	External	Intellectual Property	http://www.intellectual-property.co.uk		5/25/00
50%	External	Intellectual Property Valuations, Inc.Intellectual Property Valuation ...	http://valuationcorp.com		5/25/00

Figure 11b

Corporate Guidelines

These are ABC's corporate guidelines regarding intellectual property. These guidelines are in place to protect both the company and the employee. Read them so you understand what duties you owe to ABC and what you do not. If you have additional questions, please contact the corporate legal department at X1234 and they can answer your questions. You can remain anonymous if you like.

Overview

New! Your Responsibilities

Work Outside the Company

Vendor Guidelines

Confidential Frequently Asked Questions

Figure 12

TOP 10 INNOVATIONS

#1 HTML Wizard

Chairman's Award

Garmont, John, 5-25-99, Pittsburgh, PA, Division: Corporate R&D e-mail: j.garmont@corp.research.com

Category: Best New HTML Development Tools

Project: Optimizing HTML Coding

KEY WORDS: software, Symplicity, internet, html, development

DESCRIPTION: This programming model employs a new technique that dramatically reduces the time required to develop and integrate a website with existing corporate SQL databases. It is based on research first developed in 1998 by the corporate R&D team designing advanced system tools to enhance the Symplicity Product Line, Code Named: "Alpha II project." Technical reference materials and specifications can be found at; www.corporate.com\symplicity\dev.alpha2\ for those with appropriate clearance. A provisional patent filing was completed on 2-3-99 under the title "Optimizing HTML Code with Enterprise Databases." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1. .

Figure 13

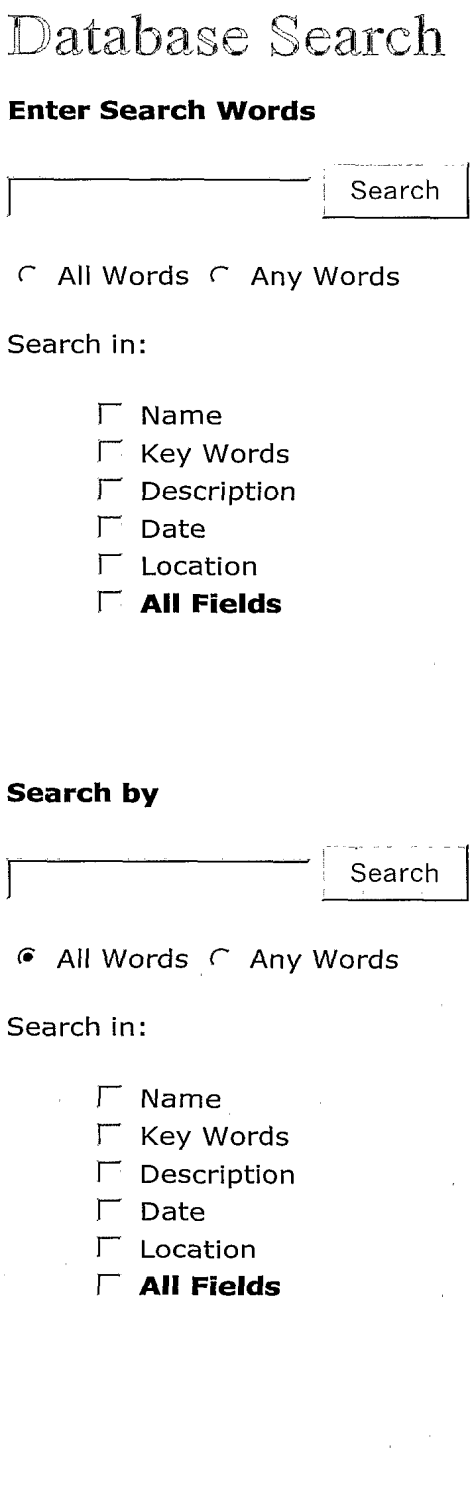

Database Search
Enter Search Words
Search
All Words
Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields
Search by
Search
All Words
Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields

Figure 14a

John's Innovator Page

MM MEMBER EVALUATION BOARD
M DISTINGUISHED PATENT FELLOW 1998
Home Page • Edit • Help

Innovation Database Search

Key Word(s)

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

Search Parameters

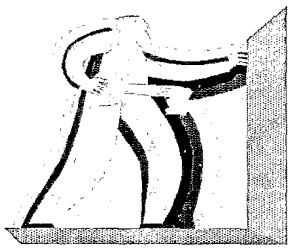
Results MUST NOT contain the phrase

Results SHOULD contain the phrase

Start Search | Reset

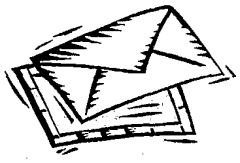
Figure 14b

Management Tools



Un-reviewed Submissions — *This is a list of submissions that need to be reviewed and sent to the appropriate peer review committees*

Submission Tracker — *Graphical representation of submitted ideas by month, quarter, year, and year to date. View comparisons of different time periods*



External Responses — *E-mail requests from ideas published for viewing by innovation consortium members*

Figure 15a

MindMatters

Innovator Division Overview

Home Page · Edit · Help

Patent Filings Rate edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Category	YTD Total
Filed Patents	82
Awarded Patents	103
Pending Patents	56
Expiring Patents	12
Invention Disclosures	226

Corporate Performance edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Innovation Category	YTD Total
New Products	21
Patents	103
Business Process Improvements	55
Six Sigma	61
Competitive	84

Strategic Goals edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

New Product Submissions edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

Title	Authors	?	Rank
Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%

Innovation Performance edit – ×

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Top Licensing Revenue edit – ×
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

Figure 15b-1

Robotic Force Feedback Sensor — Elston — 31%

Innovation Category — YTD Total

Invention Disclosures	2156
Active Innovations	263
Budgeted Innovations	55
Closed Innovations	489
Rejected Innovations	1349

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Departments edit ... x

Seattle, WA

Marketing Sales WSA International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate More

Pittsburgh, PA

Sales International Finance Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

London, England

International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Corporate Performance edit ... x

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Title	Authors	?	Rank
1. Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
2. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
3. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
4. NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
5. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
6. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
7. Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
8. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
9. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31%

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Figure 15b-2

Status

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page • Edit • Help

Valuation Points
Chart Total Month Week Day Department Location

	Critieria	Result	Company	%	Rank	Pts
1.	Personal Home Page Hits	103	125,119	7.1%	Top 10	52
2.	File Cabinet Hits	56	204,532	7.0%	Top 50	5
3.	Collaboration Agent Hits	12	23,221	7.0%	Top 50	12
4.	Citations	5	3,206	7.2%	Top 10	60
5.	Submissions	20	8,018	7.3%	Top 25	20
6.	Analysis Performed	25	36,112	7.1%	Top 25	50
7.	NDA Citations	1	58	1.7%	Top 10	50
8.	Downloads	6	7,863	0.1%		12
9.	Internet Publications	0	98	0.0%		0
10.	Licenses	1	12	3.3%	Top 10	500
11.	Accepted Innovations	8	400	2.0%	Top 50	80
12.	Patents	2	52	3.8%	#1	2000
	TOTAL					**2841**

Performance

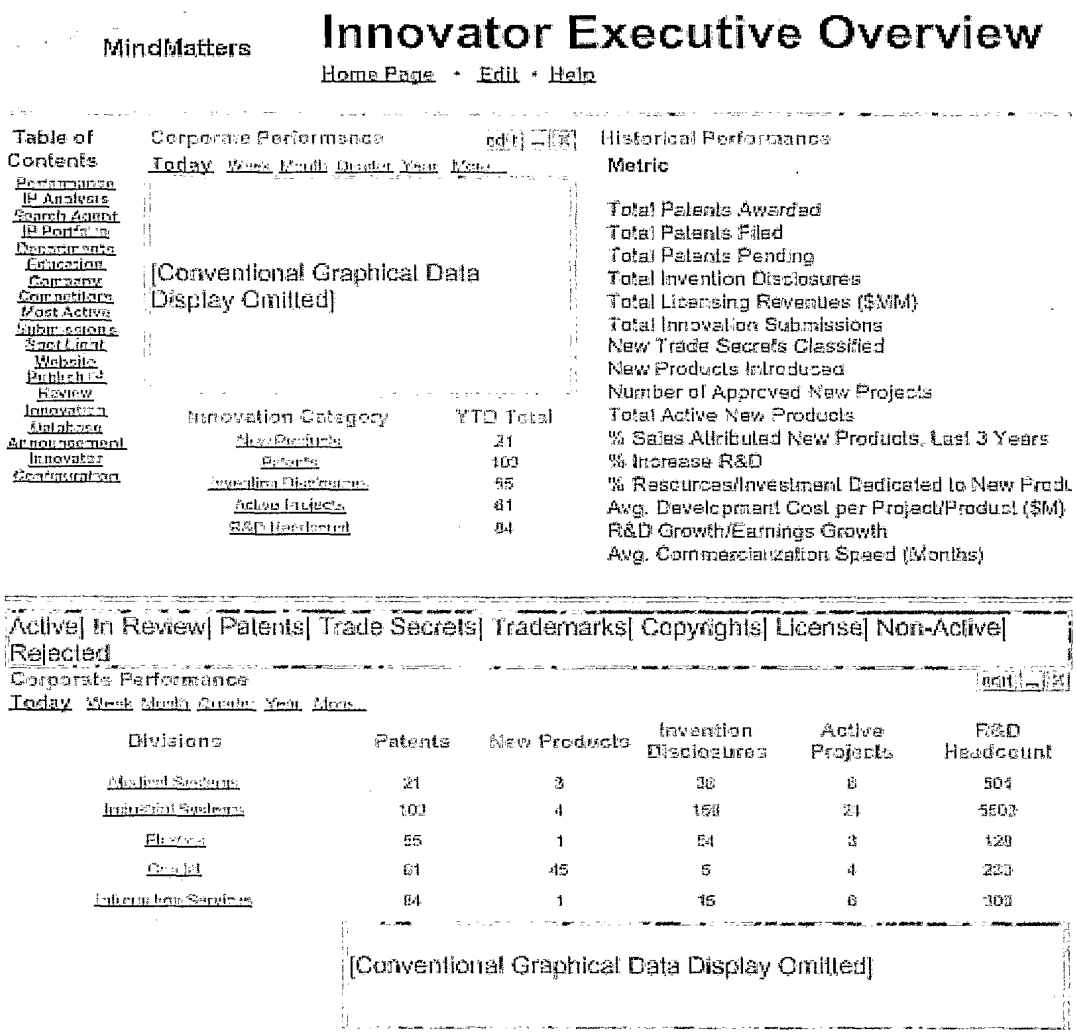
Portfolio Performance edit
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

[Conventional Graphical Data Display Omitted]

Company Goals edit
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

[Conventional Graphical Data Display Omitted]

Figure 15c


MindMatters
Innovator Executive Overview
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Innovator
Communication
Corporate Performance
Today Week Month Quarter Year More
[Conventional Graphical Data Display Omitted]
Innovation Category YTD Total
New Products 21
Patents 103
Invention Disclosures 55
Active Projects 81
R&D Headcount 84
Historical Performance
Metric
Total Patents Awarded
Total Patents Filed
Total Patents Pending
Total Invention Disclosures
Total Licensing Revenues ($MM)
Total Innovation Submissions
New Trade Secrets Classified
New Products Introduced
Number of Approved New Projects
Total Active New Products
% Sales Attributed New Products, Last 3 Years
% Increase R&D
% Resources/Investment Dedicated to New Prodt
Avg. Development Cost per Project/Product ($M)
R&D Growth/Earnings Growth
Avg. Commercialization Speed (Months)
Active| In Review| Patents| Trade Secrets| Trademarks| Copyrights| License| Non-Active| Rejected
Corporate Performance
Today Week Month Quarter Year More
Divisions Patents New Products Invention Disclosures Active Projects R&D Headcount
Medical Systems 21 3 38 8 504
Industrial Systems 103 4 168 21 5503
Electronics 55 1 54 3 120
Credit 81 45 5 4 223
Information Services 84 1 15 6 303
[Conventional Graphical Data Display Omitted]

Figure 15d

Year to Date Summary

Monthly submissions year-to-date for current and previous years.

[Conventional Graphical Data Display omitted]

Figure 16a

MindMatters

Innovator Division Overview

Home Page · Edit · Help

Patent Filings Rate edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Category	YTD Total
Filed Patents	82
Awarded Patents	103
Pending Patents	56
Expiring Patents	12
Invention Disclosures	226

Corporate Performance edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Innovation Category	YTD Total
New Products	21
Patents	103
Business Process Improvements	55
Six Sigma	61
Competitive	84

Strategic Goals edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Innovation Goals	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	100
Filed Patents	50
Invention Disclosures	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	5
New Best Practices	50

New Product Submissions edit – ×
Today Week Month Quarter Year More...

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Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%

Innovation Performance edit – ×

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Top Licensing Revenue edit – ×
Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

Figure 16b-1

Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston	31%

Departments edit – X

Seattle, WA

Marketing Sales WSA International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate More

Pittsburgh, PA

Sales International Finance Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

London, England

International Finance Business Development Patent Corporate Counsel Software Development Technical Support Customer Service Accounting More

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Innovation Category	YTD Total
Invention Disclosures	2156
Active Innovations	263
Budgeted Innovations	55
Closed Innovations	489
Rejected Innovations	1349

Corporate Performance edit – X

Chart News Performance Details SEC Research More...

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Title	Authors	?	Rank
1. Neural Network Optical Driver	Gabrick		92%
2. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		82%
3. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		79%
4. NE126 Product Improvements	N.A.		65%
5. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		55%
6. Software System For AI Internet Searching	Orlowski		45%
7. Neural Network Optical Driver	Smith		38%
8. HTML Authoring Tools	N.A.		36%
9. Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	Elston		31%

Figure 16b-2

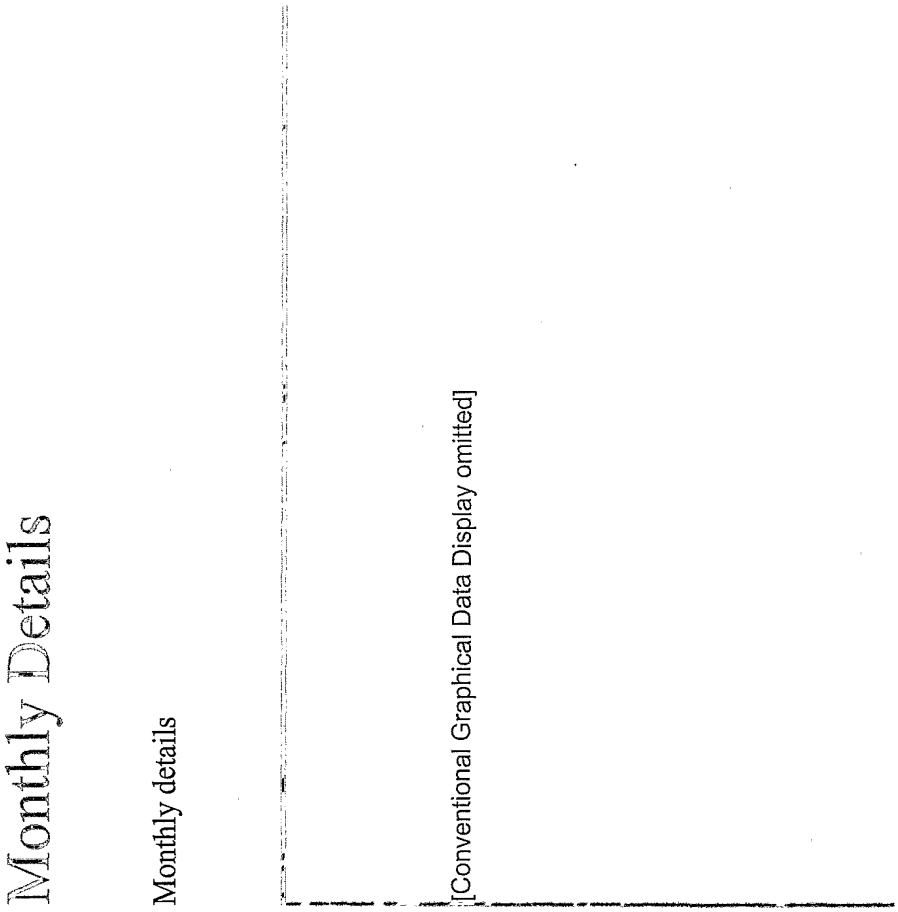
Monthly Details
Monthly details
[Conventional Graphical Data Display omitted]

Figure 17a

Innovator Management

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Performance
IP Analysis
Search Agent
IP Portfolio
Human Resources
Education
Marketing Leads
Competitors
Insurance Submission
Spotlight
Website Publish IP
Reports
Innovation Database
Announcement
Innovator Configuration

Submission Overview

edit

By Action Status IP Type Division Rank More...

[Conventional Graphical Data Display omitted]

Innovation Goals	Today	YTD Total
New Product Innovations	1	100
Filed Patents	1	50
Invention Disclosures	5	1500
New Business Spin-Offs	0	5
New Best Practices	2	50

Active| In Review| Patents| Trade Secrets| Trademarks| Copyrights| License| Non-Active| Rejected

Updates

April 20, 6:22PM EST

- PTO Updates MPEP
- Urgent Search Results
- 5 New Innovation Disclosures
- PK107 Review Results

Send Email
Calendar Lookup

Database Search

Figure 17b

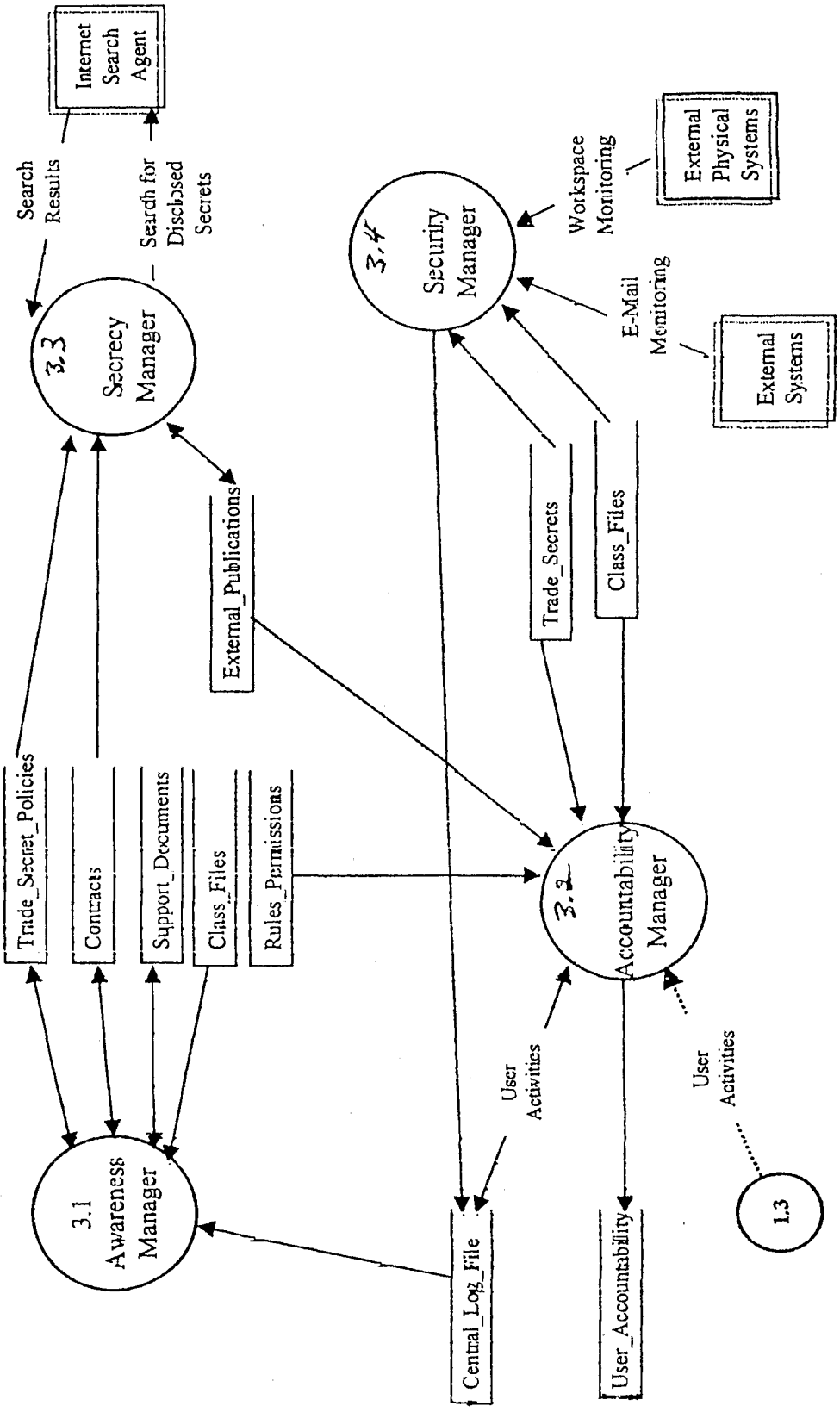

Internet Search Agent
Search Results
Search for Disclosed Secrets
3.3 Secrecy Manager
3.4 Security Manager
Workspace Monitoring
External Physical Systems
E-Mail Monitoring
External Systems
External_Publications
Trade_Secrets
Class_Files
Trade_Secret_Policies
Contracts
Support_Documents
Class_Files
Rules_Permissions
3.2 Accountability Manager
User Activities
User Activities
3.1 Awareness Manager
Central_Log_File
User_Accountability
1.3

Figure 18

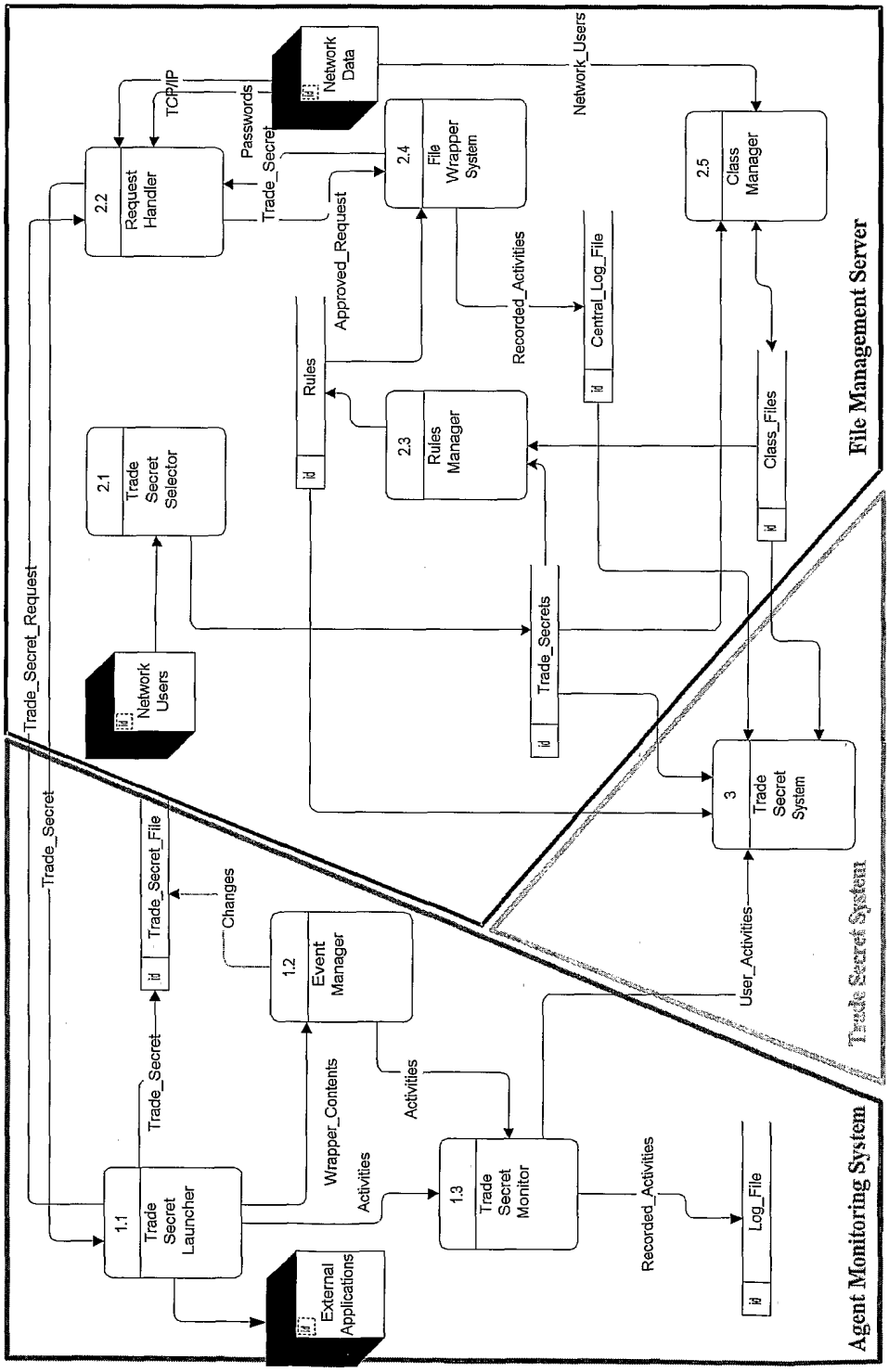

Agent Monitoring System
File Management Server
Trade Secret System
Trade_Secret_Request
Trade_Secret
1.1 Trade Secret Launcher
External Applications
Trade_Secret
Trade_Secret_File
Changes
1.2 Event Manager
Wrapper_Contents
Activities
Activities
1.3 Trade Secret Monitor
Recorded_Activities
Log_File
User_Activities
3 Trade Secret System
Trade_Secrets
2.1 Trade Secret Selector
Network Users
Rules
2.3 Rules Manager
Approved_Request
2.2 Request Handler
TCP/IP
Passwords
Trade_Secret
Network Data
2.4 File Wrapper System
Recorded_Activities
Central_Log_File
Network_Users
2.5 Class Manager
Class_Files

Figure 19

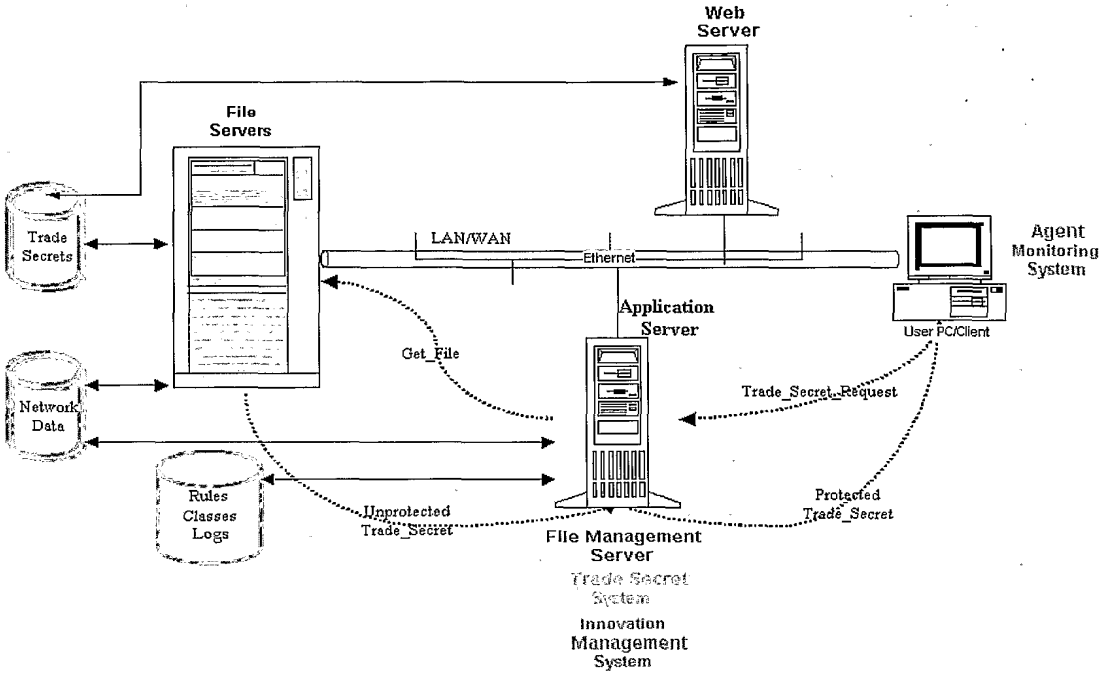

Web Server
File Servers
Trade Secrets
LAN/WAN
Ethernet
Agent Monitoring System
Application Server
User PC/Client
Get_File
Network Data
Trade_Secret_Request
Rules Classes Logs
Unprotected Trade_Secret
Protected Trade_Secret
File Management Server
Trade Secret System
Innovation Management System

Figure 20

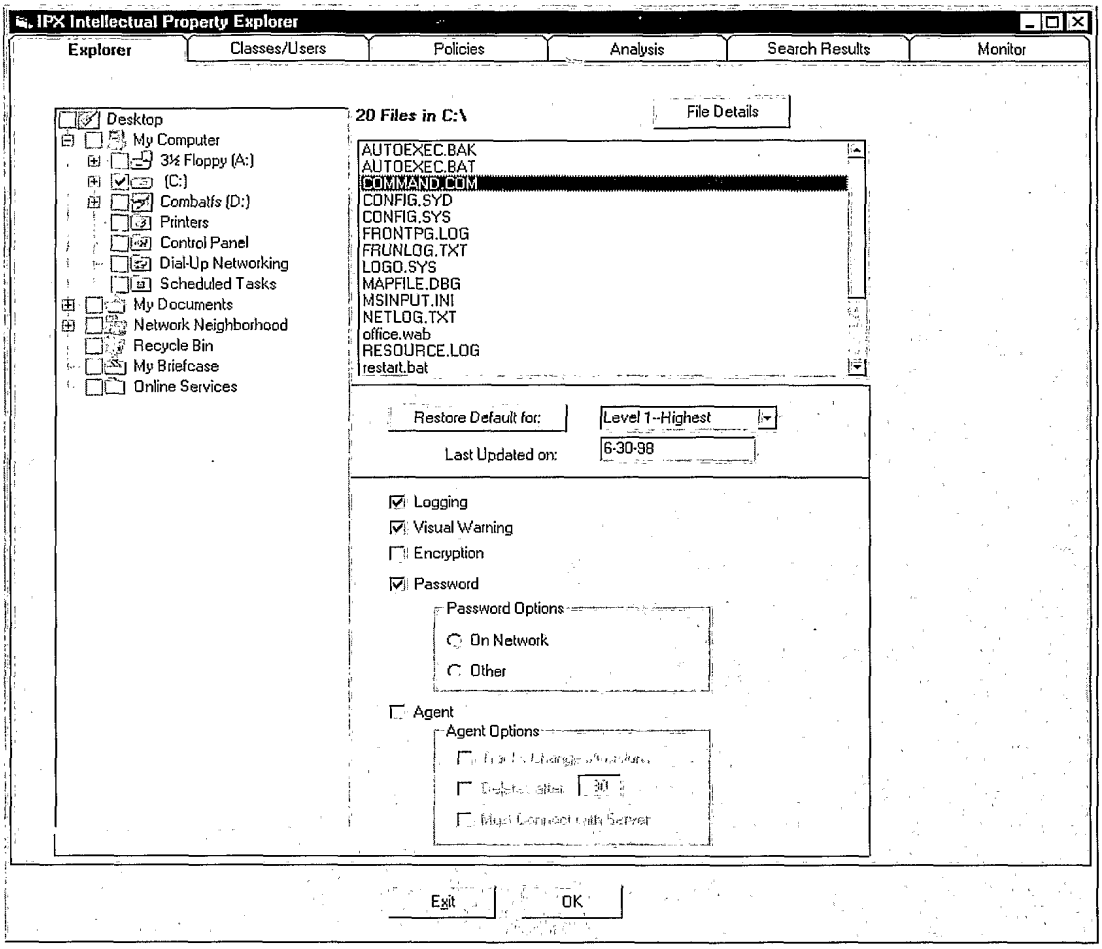

IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Desktop
My Computer
3½ Floppy (A:)
(C:)
Combat/s (D:)
Printers
Control Panel
Dial-Up Networking
Scheduled Tasks
My Documents
Network Neighborhood
Recycle Bin
My Briefcase
Online Services
20 Files in C:\
File Details
AUTOEXEC.BAK
AUTOEXEC.BAT
COMMAND.COM
CONFIG.SYD
CONFIG.SYS
FRONTPG.LOG
FRUNLOG.TXT
LOGO.SYS
MAPFILE.DBG
MSINPUT.INI
NETLOG.TXT
office.wab
RESOURCE.LOG
restart.bat
Restore Default for:
Level 1--Highest
Last Updated on:
6-30-98
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Exit
OK

Figure 21

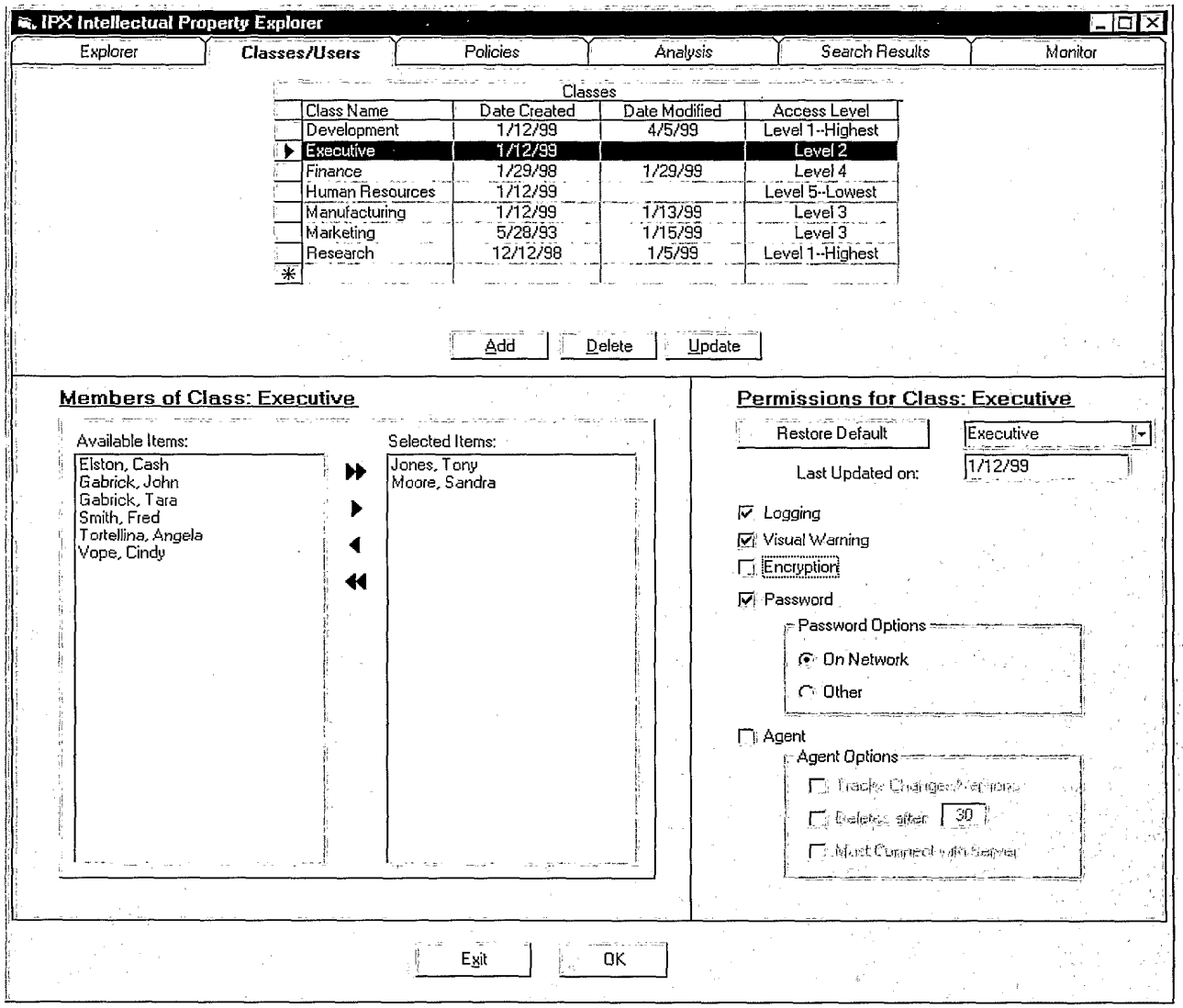

IPX Intellectual Property Explorer
Explorer
Classes/Users
Policies
Analysis
Search Results
Monitor
Classes
Class Name
Date Created
Date Modified
Access Level
Development
1/12/99
4/5/99
Level 1--Highest
Executive
1/12/99
Level 2
Finance
1/29/98
1/29/99
Level 4
Human Resources
1/12/99
Level 5--Lowest
Manufacturing
1/12/99
1/13/99
Level 3
Marketing
5/28/93
1/15/99
Level 3
Research
12/12/98
1/5/99
Level 1--Highest
Add
Delete
Update
Members of Class: Executive
Available Items:
Elston, Cash
Gabrick, John
Gabrick, Tara
Smith, Fred
Tortellina, Angela
Vope, Cindy
Selected Items:
Jones, Tony
Moore, Sandra
Permissions for Class: Executive
Restore Default
Executive
Last Updated on:
1/12/99
Logging
Visual Warning
Encryption
Password
Password Options
On Network
Other
Agent
Agent Options
Delete after
30
Exit
OK

Figure 22

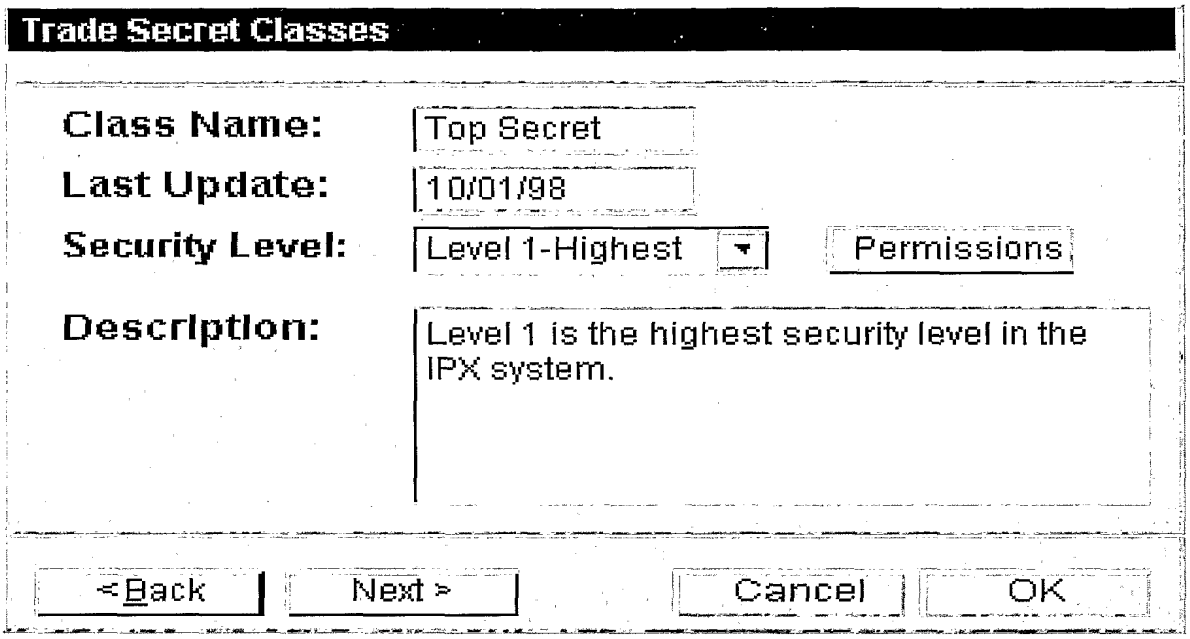


Figure 23

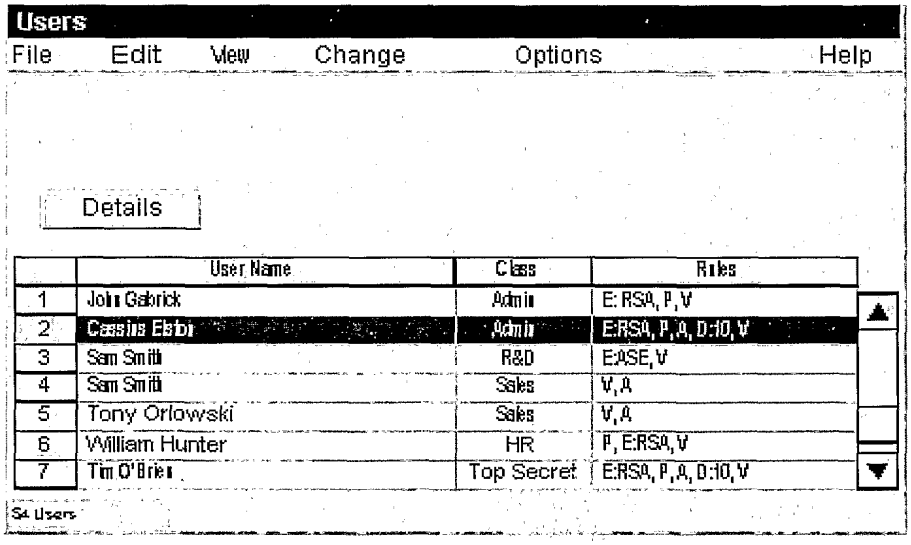


Figure 24

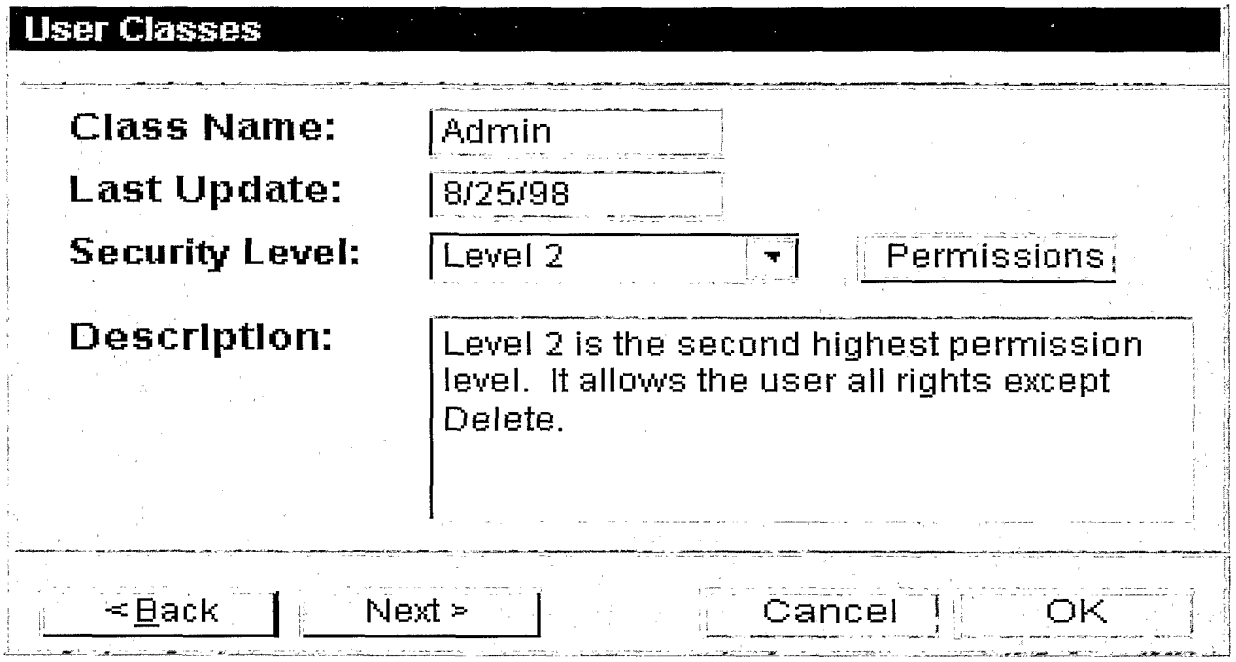


Figure 25

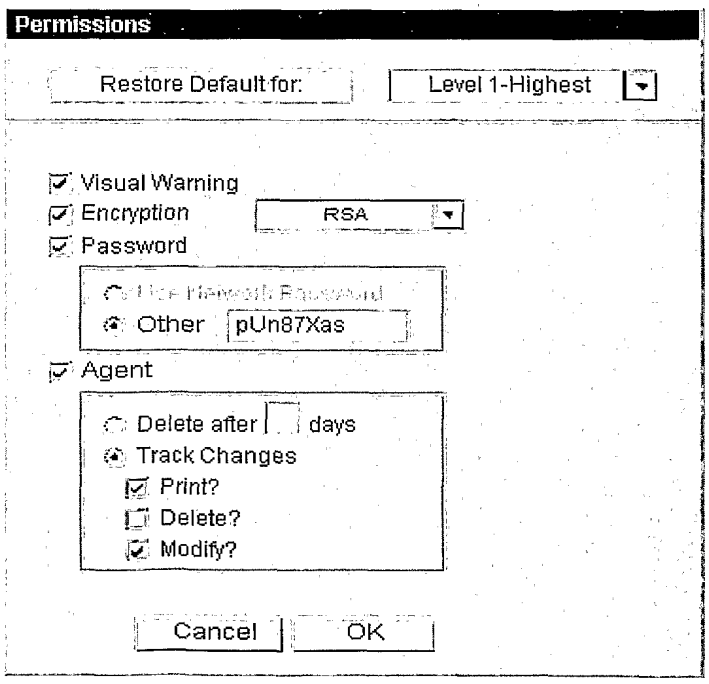


Figure 26

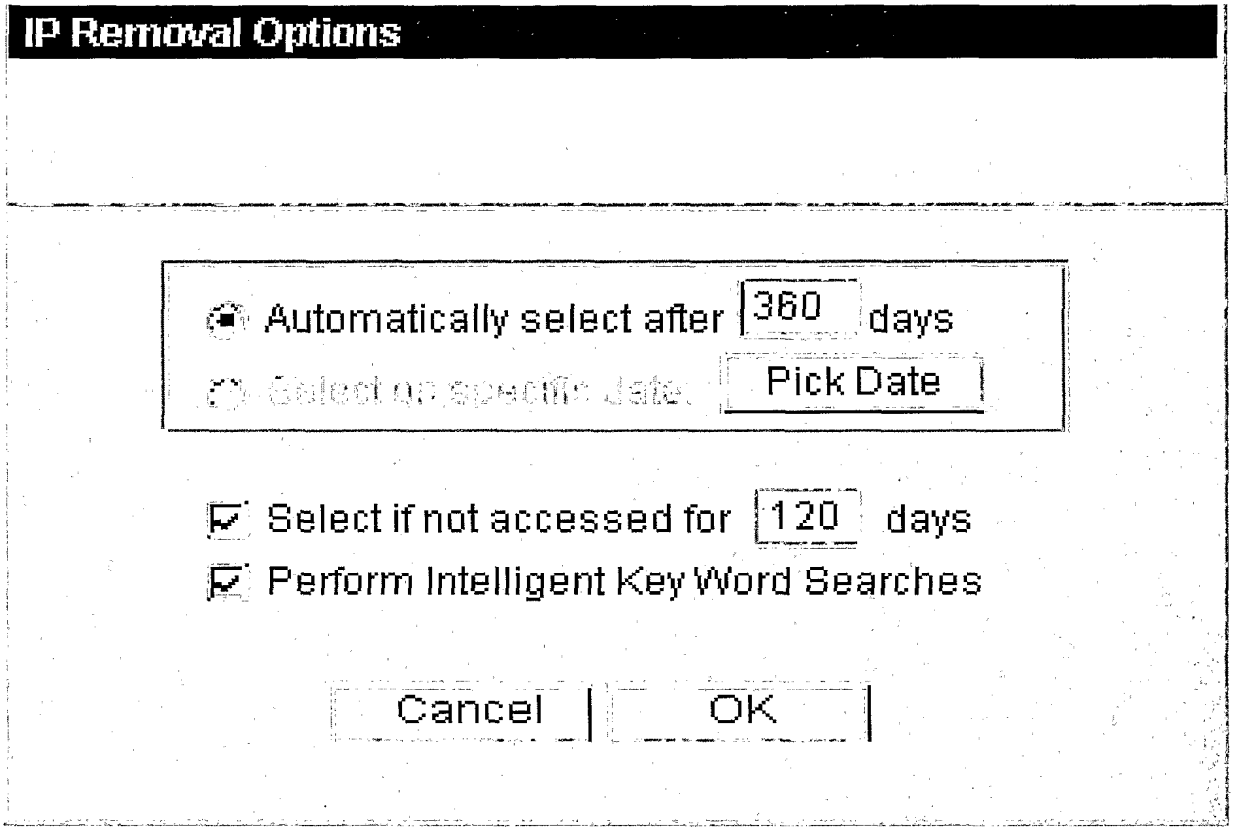

IP Removal Options
Automatically select after 360 days
Select on specific date
Pick Date
Select if not accessed for 120 days
Perform Intelligent Key Word Searches
Cancel
OK

Figure 27

45/91

Innovator

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

Home Page · Edit · Help

Submit Innovation

[Conventional navigational Explorer Tree omitted]

Inventor(s) Information

	Name	Location	Dept.	ID#
Contributor 1	John Gabrick	Pittsburgh	5600	1A8592
Contributor 2	Cash Elston	Redmond	5600	1A5623
Sponsor	Tom Jones	Seattle	8700	9A7612

Lookup

Innovation Information

Innovation Name Neural Network Optical Driver

Innovation Type Business-to-Business

Supporting Electronic Documents C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc

Supporting Paper Documents
Title
Date
Type
Location

Generate Barcode

Description This system automatically updates a adjusts to changes in ambient light Users are able to build robotic gui systems that adapt to any lighting

Key Words Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance

Protection Information

Route to Corporate Counsel? ☐ yes

Potential Trade Secret? ☐ yes

Initial Protection Level Department Only

Warning Message

Encryption ☐ yes

Has This Innovation Been Disclosed to Anyone Other Than the Inventors? ☐ yes, if yes to whom

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Submit Idea Clear all answers

Figure 28a

Submit A New Innovation

Thank you for submitting a new innovation at Your Corporation. The information that you enter will help to make our company more productive AND it will help to create a more lucrative environment for you personally. After you submit an idea, the submission will automatically be routed to your immediate supervisor (unless you request differently) and to the Independent Review Committee. After the information has been reviewed by the Committee, you will receive feedback about the status of your submission by checking this web site. All plausible ideas will be result in a financial reward, whether the idea is used or not. If your idea has greater potential, you may be asked (or you may volunteer) to be part of a special task force which examines the idea in more detail and submits a business justification for continued investment. If selected, your idea could be worth enough to allow you to retire. Thanks for participating, and remember to view the status of your submissions on the Status web page. Thank you.

1) Name:

2) Location:

3) E-Mail:

4) Innovation Type

- ☐ New Idea
- ☐ Process Improvement
- ☐ Competitive Tactic
- ☐ Patent

☐ Other (Please specify):

5) Key Words Used to BRIEFLY Describe Innovation

6) Description of Innovation

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Submit Idea | Clear all answers

Figure 28b

John's Innovator Page

MM MEMBER EVALUATION BOARD
M DISTINGUISHED PATENT FELLOW 1998
Home Page • Edit • Help

Innovation Database Search

Key Word(s)

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

Search Parameters

Results MUST NOT contain | the phrase

Results SHOULD contain | the phrase

Start Search | Reset

Figure 29a

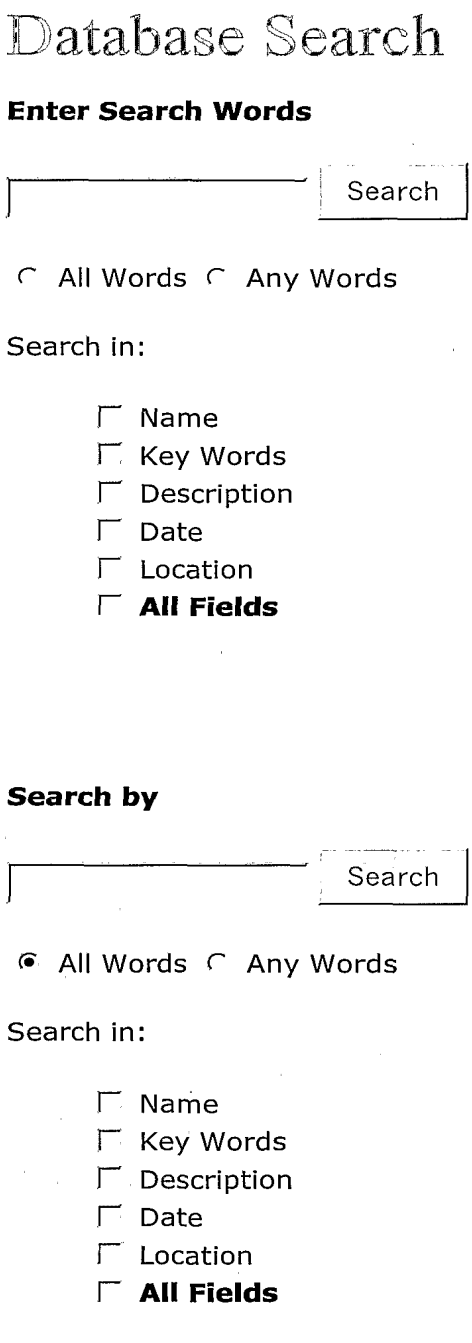
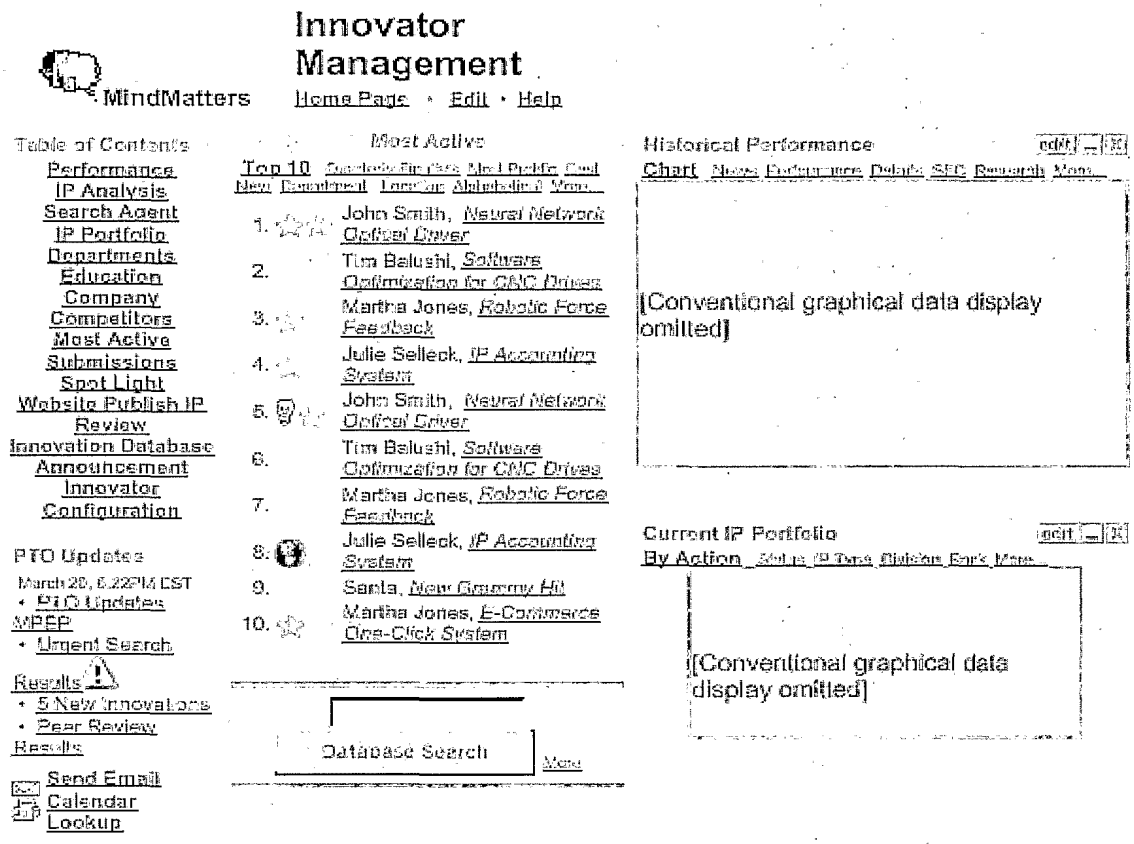

Database Search
Enter Search Words
Search
All Words
Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields
Search by
Search
All Words
Any Words
Search in:
Name
Key Words
Description
Date
Location
All Fields

Figure 29b


Innovator Management
MindMatters
Home Page • Edit • Help
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Performance
IP Analysis
Search Agent
IP Portfolio
Departments
Education
Company
Competitors
Most Active
Submissions
Spot Light
Website Publish IP Review
Innovation Database
Announcement
Innovator Configuration
PTO Updates
March 20, 5:22PM EST
• PTO Updates
MPEP
• Urgent Search Results
• 5 New Innovators
• Peer Review Results
Send Email
Calendar
Lookup
Most Active
Top 10
1. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
2. Tim Belushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
3. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
4. Julie Selleck, IP Accounting System
5. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
6. Tim Belushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
7. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
8. Julie Selleck, IP Accounting System
9. Santa, New Gramma Hit
10. Martha Jones, E-Commerce One-Click System
Database Search
More
Historical Performance
Chart
[Conventional graphical data display omitted]
Current IP Portfolio
By Action
[Conventional graphical data display omitted]
Active| In Review| Patents| Trade Secrets| Trademarks| Copyrights| License| Non-Active| Rejected
Intellectual Property Portfolio
File Search:
All Files | Latest
Sort By: Action
Action
Depart. Division
Score
Title
IP Type
Published Status
Inventors
Status
Last Update
Search Agent
Create Date
IP Class
Protection
New 5630 Neural Network Optical Driver PP Smith, Jones, Gabrick 11/28/99 Yes 11/29/99 Hardware Executive Only
New 7620 Software System For AI Internet Searching Celowski 8/2/99 8/2/99 Software All Employees
New 9603.0 HTML Authoring Tools N.A. 6/30/95 Yes 6/30/95 Software Department Only
New 1210-1 NC628 Product Improvements N.A. 5/28/93 5/28/93 Improvement Department Only
5630 45.2% Behold Force Feedback System P* Internal External Elston 1/11/92 Yes 5 Results 1/11/92 New All Employees
5750 55.1% Software System For AI Internet Searching Internal Celowski 8/2/99 8/2/99 Software All Employees

Figure 30a

SEARCH RESULTS

New Search | Previous Results | Next Results

24 documents found for query: database

Displaying results 1 - 24

Submissions	Name	Location	Innovation	Date
*****	Gabrick, John	Pittsburgh	Html Wizard	5-22-98
***	Elston, Cassius	Seattle	Fabrication Design	4-21-98
**	Smith, Frederic	San Francisco	IP Mgmt Software	1-11-99
**	Jones, Josephine	Boston	New Light	8-05-99

Figure 30b

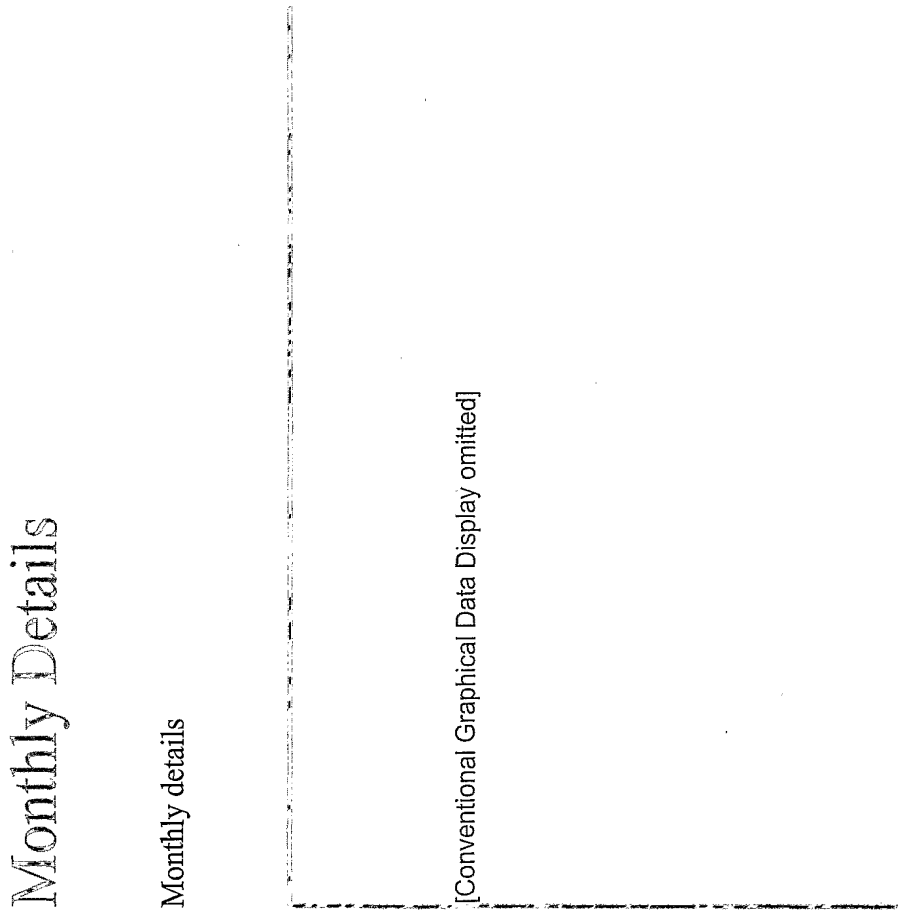
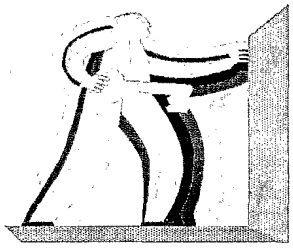

Monthly Details
Monthly details
[Conventional Graphical Data Display omitted]

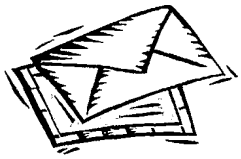
Figure 31

Management Tools



Un-reviewed Submissions — *This is a list of submissions that need to be reviewed and sent to the appropriate peer review committees*

Submission Tracker — *Graphical representation of submitted ideas by month, quarter, year, and year to date. View comparisons of different time periods*



External Responses — *E-mail requests from ideas published for viewing by innovation consortium members*

Figure 32

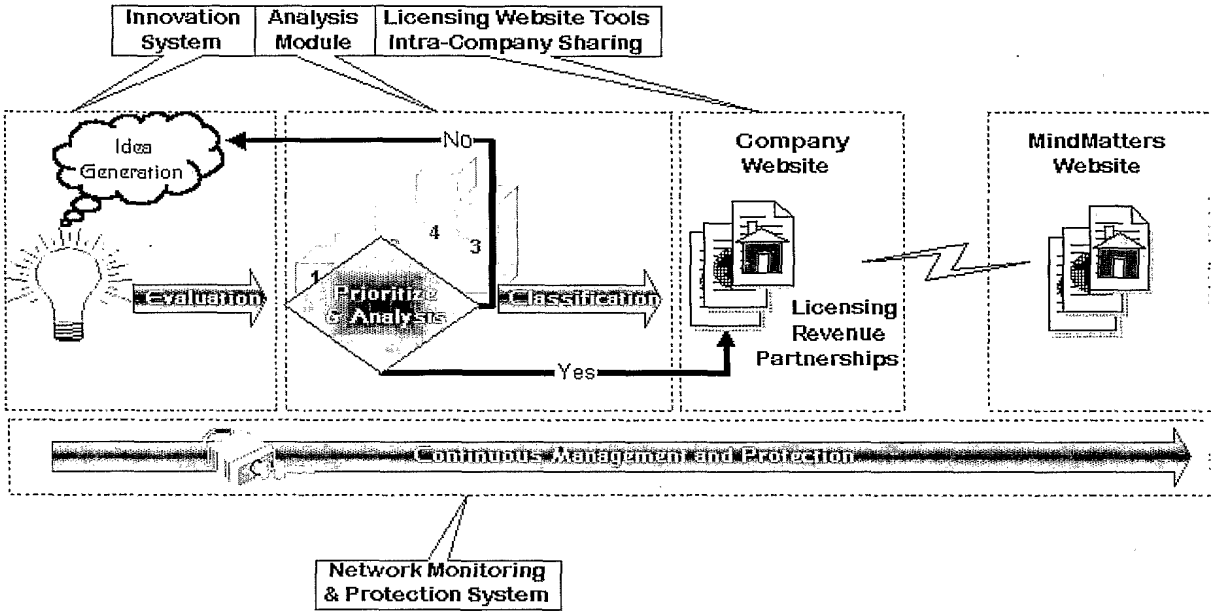

Innovation System
Analysis Module
Licensing Website Tools Intra-Company Sharing
Idea Generation
Evaluation
No
Prioritize Analysis
Classification
Yes
Company Website
Licensing
Revenue
Partnerships
MindMatters Website
Continuous Management and Protection
Network Monitoring & Protection System

Figure 33

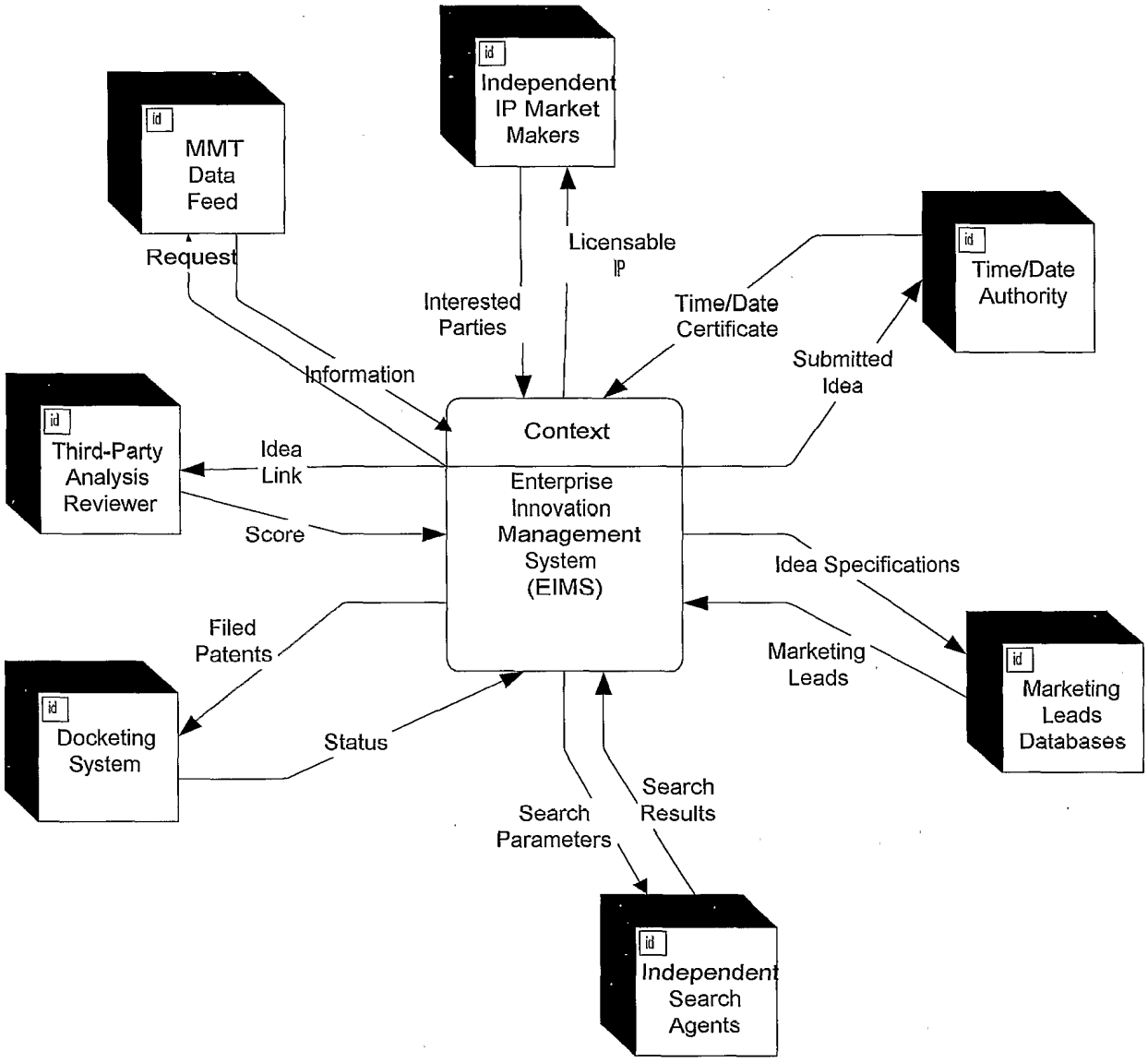
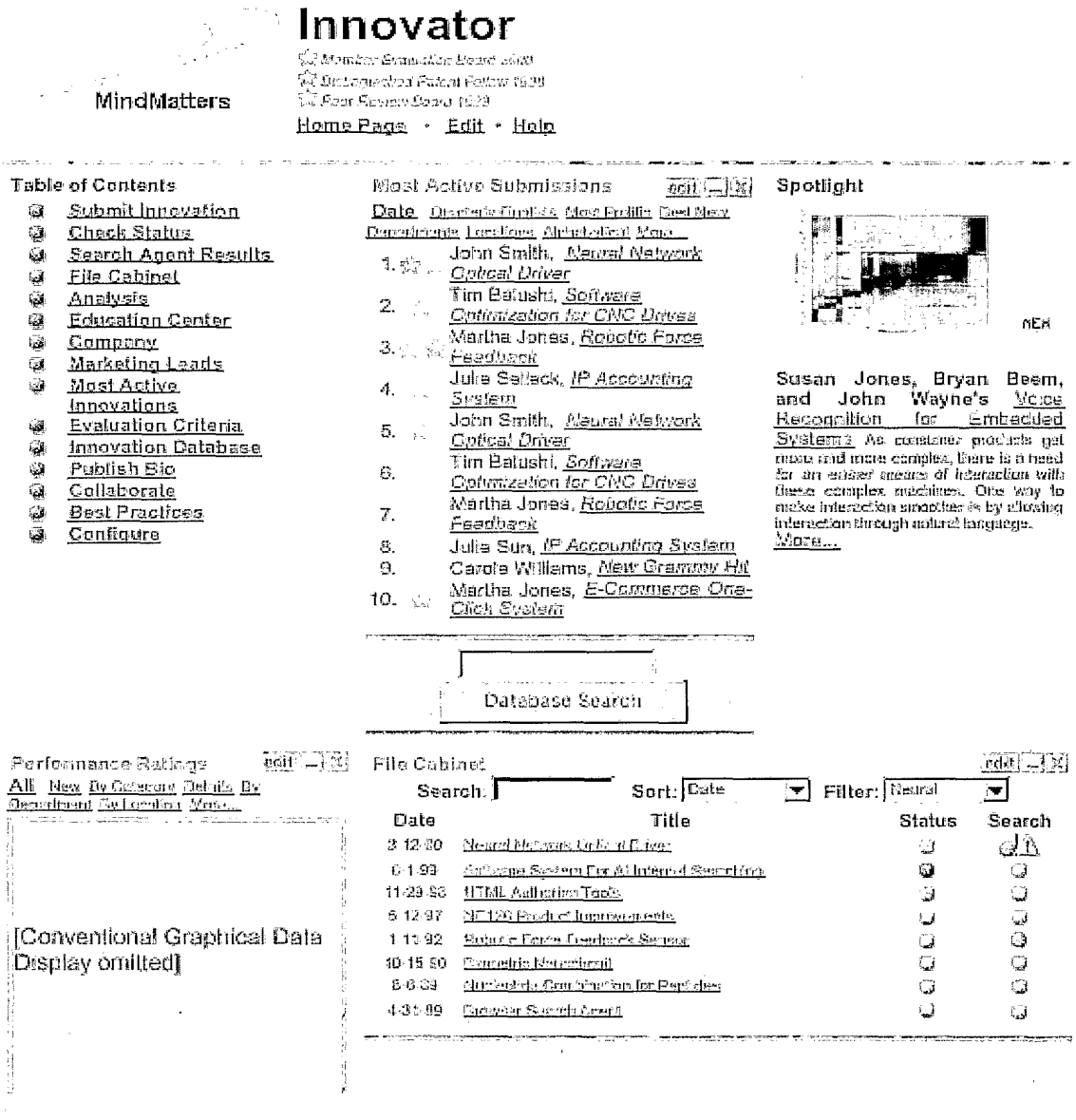

Independent IP Market Makers
MMT Data Feed
Request
Licensable IP
Interested Parties
Time/Date Certificate
Time/Date Authority
Submitted Idea
Information
Third-Party Analysis Reviewer
Idea Link
Score
Context
Enterprise Innovation Management System (EIMS)
Idea Specifications
Filed Patents
Marketing Leads
Marketing Leads Databases
Docketing System
Status
Search Parameters
Search Results
Independent Search Agents

Figure 34


Innovator
MindMatters
Home Page • Edit • Help
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Submit Innovation
Check Status
Search Agent Results
File Cabinet
Analysis
Education Center
Company
Marketing Leads
Most Active Innovations
Evaluation Criteria
Innovation Database
Publish Bio
Collaborate
Best Practices
Configure
Most Active Submissions
Date
1. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
2. Tim Batushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
3. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
4. Julie Selleck, IP Accounting System
5. John Smith, Neural Network Optical Driver
6. Tim Batushi, Software Optimization for CNC Drives
7. Martha Jones, Robotic Force Feedback
8. Julie Sun, IP Accounting System
9. Carole Williams, New Grammy Hit
10. Martha Jones, E-Commerce One-Click System
Spotlight
Susan Jones, Bryan Beem, and John Wayne's Voice Recognition for Embedded Systems As consumer products get more and more complex, there is a need for an easier means of interaction with these complex machines. One way to make interaction smoother is by allowing interaction through natural language.
More...
Database Search
Performance Ratings
All New By Category Details By Department By Location More...
[Conventional Graphical Data Display omitted]
File Cabinet
Search:
Sort: Date
Filter: Neural
Date
Title
Status
Search
3-12-80 Neural Network Optical Driver
6-1-99 Software System For AI Integrated Searching
11-29-93 HTML Authoring Tools
5-12-97 NT 120 Product Improvements
1-11-92 Robotic Force Feedback System
10-15-50 Dendritic Neurocircuit
5-6-99 Biomolecule Combination for Peptides
4-31-99 Computer Security Agent

Figure 35a

56/91

Innovator

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

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Submit Innovation

[Conventional navigational Explorer Tree omitted]

Inventor(s) Information

	Name	Location	Dept.	ID#
Contributor 1	John Gabrick	Pittsburgh	5600	1A8592
Contributor 2	Cash Elston	Redmond	5600	1A5623
Sponsor	Tom Jones	Seattle	8700	9A7612

Lookup

Innovation Information

Innovation Name: Neural Network Optical Driver

Innovation Type: Business-to-Business

Supporting Electronic Documents: C:\My Documents\NNOD-v1.doc

Supporting Paper Documents: Title, Date, Type, Location

Generate Barcode

Description: This system automatically updates a adjusts to changes in ambient light Users are able to build robotic gui systems that adapt to any lighting

Key Words: Neural Network, Lighting, Robotic Guidance

Protection Information

Route to Corporate Counsel? ☐ yes

Potential Trade Secret? ☐ yes

Initial Protection Level: Department Only

Warning Message:

Encryption ☐ yes

Has This Innovation Been Disclosed to Anyone Other Than the Inventors? ☐ yes, if yes to whom

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Submit Idea | Clear all answers

Figure 35b

SEARCH AGENT CONFIGURATION

Search Location(s)

- ☑ Network
- ☑ Patent Server
- ☐ Trademark Server
- ☐ US PTO Gazette
- ☑ Other Server
- ☐ Intranet Sites: Pittsburgh
- ☐ Internet (.com)

Competitors

- ○ Ariba
- ○ CommerceOne
- ○ E-Bay.com
- ○ General Motors
- ○ Steel-trade.com
- ◉ Amazon.com

Search These Competitors Also:

Search Parameters

Results MUST NOT contain the phrase

Results SHOULD contain the phrase

Specific Criteria

IP Asset

Title

Subject

Search Words

Exclude these Words

Dates

Submit Clear

Figure 36

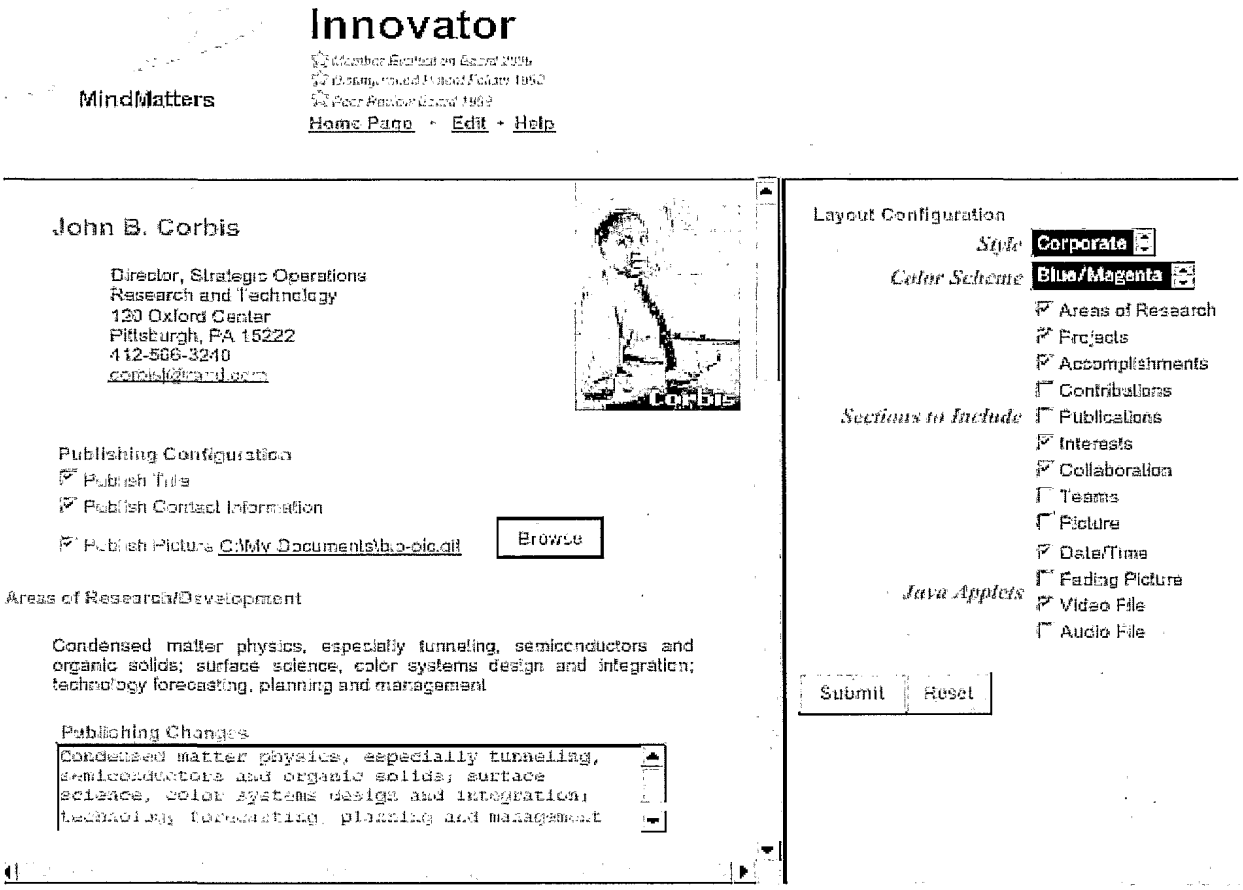
MindMatters
Innovator
Home Page • Edit • Help
John B. Corbis
Director, Strategic Operations
Research and Technology
130 Oxford Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-566-3240
Publishing Configuration
Publish Title
Publish Contact Information
Publish Picture C:\My Documents\bio-pic.gif
Browse
Areas of Research/Development
Condensed matter physics, especially tunneling, semiconductors and organic solids; surface science, color systems design and integration; technology forecasting, planning and management
Publishing Changes
Condensed matter physics, especially tunneling, semiconductors and organic solids; surface science, color systems design and integration; technology forecasting, planning and management
Layout Configuration
Style
Corporate
Color Scheme
Blue/Magenta
Sections to Include
Areas of Research
Projects
Accomplishments
Contributions
Publications
Interests
Collaboration
Teams
Picture
Date/Time
Java Applets
Fading Picture
Video File
Audio File
Submit
Reset

Figure 37-1

Projects

Date	Title	Status
3-12-00	Neural Network Optical Driver	☺
6-1-99	Software System for AI Internet Searching	☻
11-29-98	HTML Authoring Tools	☺
5-12-97	NE 126 Product Improvements	☺
1-11-92	Robotic Force Feedback Sensor	☮
10-15-90	Biomechanical Nanocircuit	☮
8-6-89	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	☮
4-30-89	Browser Search Agent	☺

Publishing Configuration

✔ Publish Date
✔ Publish Status
✔ Publish Search Results

Publications

Figure 37-2

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MindMatters

Innovator

Member Evaluation Board 2000
Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

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Personal Home Page Hits

	Search Term	Who	Date
1.	Software Intelligence	124.34.5.113 View Results | Delete	1-13-00
2.	Internet Searching	124.34.5.120 View Results | Delete	2-4-00
3.	Neural Network	124.34.5.126 View Results | Delete	2-4-00

File Cabinet Hits (Internal)

	Title	Hits
1.	Software System For AI Internet Searching	0
2.	NE126 Product Improvements	1
3.	Biometric Nanocircuit	0
4.	Nucleotide Combination for Peptides	1
5.	Browser Search Agent	0

Collaboration Agents

	Title	Posted	Hits
1.	(Neural Network) AND (AI) OR Artificial View Results | Edit | Delete	11-29-99	5
2.	"Optical Drivers" View Results | Edit | Delete	1-2-00	1

Create New Agent

Tips
View: View runs the agent.
Edit: Make changes to your agent any time.
Delete: Permanently remove your agent.

Figure 38

Innovator

MindMatters

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Distinguished Patent Fellow 1998
Peer Review Board 1999

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Neural Network Optical Driver

Factors ***MMT198002***

Market Attributes Financial Technical Customer Competitive Environment Government/Regulatory Costs Cash Flow/ROI Manufacturability Organizational Needs Proprietary Value

Aggregate Score

[Conventional graphical data display omitted]

Inventor(s) Information

1. John Smith, *Pittsburgh*, **Pervasive Development Group**
2. Casey Jones, *Austin*, **Hardware Systems Group**
3. Tim Orlowski, *Seattle*, **International Control Systems**

Innovation Information

Innovation Name	Neural Network Optical Driver
Innovation Type	Business-to-Business
Supporting Documents	C:\My Documents\Plans.doc
Other Inventors	Casey, Jones

Market Factors

1. Rate the obviousness of the innovation (1=obvious, 10=breakthrough) N.A.
2. In the Industry unstable with many technological, regulatory, and competitor changes or stable with few changes (1=stable 10=unstable) N.A.
3. Is there a dominate competitor, with close to 50% of market which forces new you to find a niche market and to NOT compete head-to-head (1=head-to-head 10=niche) N.A.
4. High growth, less head-to-head competition, and allows more "free wheeling" control of company. Must be combined with a broad (rather than focused) strategy (1=no growth, 10=high growth) N.A.
5. Many substantial barriers, or can be created with IP. Most significant is limited number of customers. (1=no barriers, 10=substantial barriers) N.A.

Comments

Figure 39

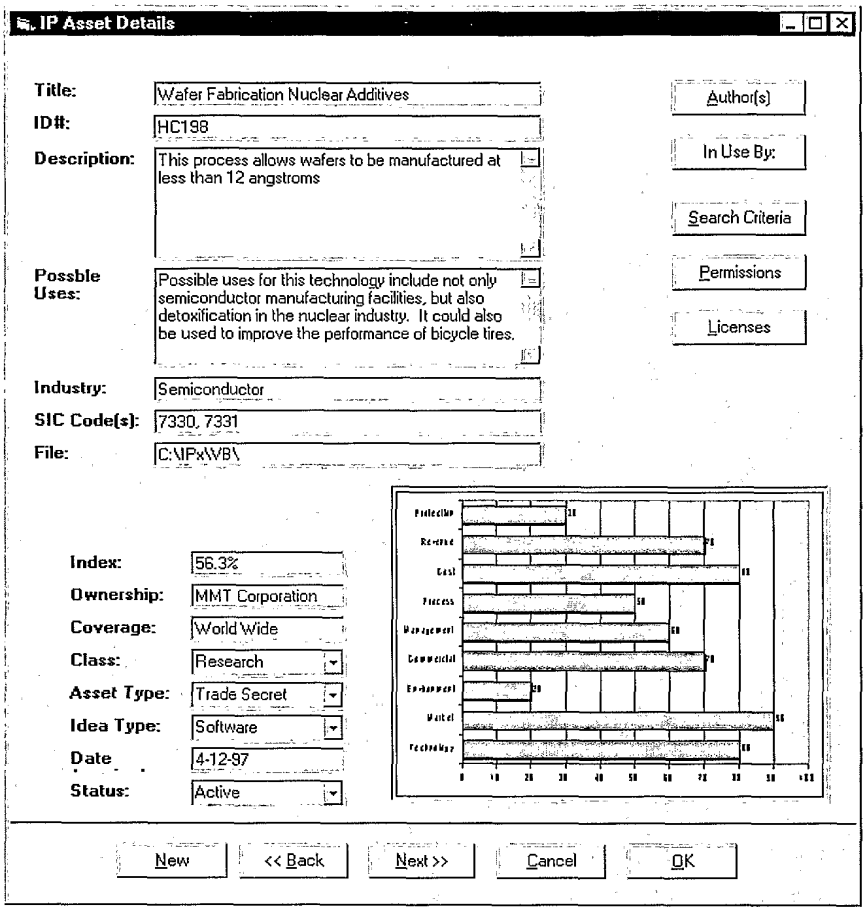

IP Asset Details
Title:
Wafer Fabrication Nuclear Additives
ID#:
HC198
Description:
This process allows wafers to be manufactured at less than 12 angstroms
Possble Uses:
Possible uses for this technology include not only semiconductor manufacturing facilities, but also detoxification in the nuclear industry. It could also be used to improve the performance of bicycle tires.
Industry:
Semiconductor
SIC Code(s):
7330, 7331
File:
C:\IPx\VB\
Author(s)
In Use By:
Search Criteria
Permissions
Licenses
Index:
56.3%
Ownership:
MMT Corporation
Coverage:
World Wide
Class:
Research
Asset Type:
Trade Secret
Idea Type:
Software
Date
4-12-97
Status:
Active
New
<< Back
Next >>
Cancel
OK

Figure 40

Innovator

MindMatters

Home Page • Edit • Help

You last visited: October 09, 2000 11:49

5 New Posts since your last visit

Innovations

Title	Inventor(s)	Posts	Last Post	Time	Resources Equipment	$Budget
Software Tool	John Gabrick	12	10-13-00	40	List	$5,000
Internet Searching Algorithm	Harry Potter	40	10-12-00	30	List	$1,250
Neural Network Driver	Ludwig Van	5	10-12-00	160		$100

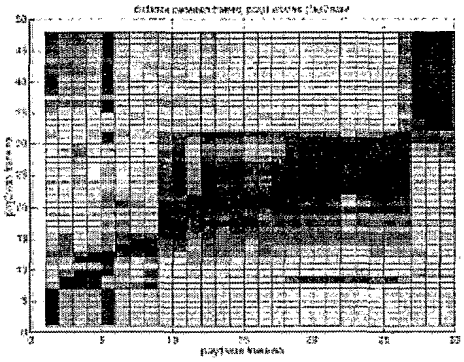
Figure 41

Voice Recognition for Embedded Systems

http://www.cmu.edu

INQUIRIES TO: Mathew Smith mathew.smith@cmu.edu
REFERENCE: 1998-282
CATEGORIES:
- Computer Software > AI software > Neural network software
- Factory Automation > Robot controllers

OPPORTUNITY: Licensing deal for 20% of revenue over a period of 5 years.



Voice Recognition Intensities

BACKGROUND

Stable and robust execution of contact tasks is of paramount importance for robot manipulators in many applications. Although there has been much interest in solving this problem, there have been no satisfactory solutions to date.

DESCRIPTION

Researchers at the Carnegie Mellon University have developed a simple adaptive control algorithm that allows a robot to track any surface profile while maintaining a desired contact force on the object. This algorithm enables a robot manipulator to track with a specified force under totally unknown environmental conditions of

APPLICATIONS

ADVANTAGES

This novel force-tracking algorithm solves an important problem in robot manipulator control and has been successfully demonstrated in the PUMA robot manipulator arm.

- Allows tracking of any surface profile with desired force under totally unknown environmental conditions of both stiffness and location;
- Robust - both stability and convergence are guaranteed;
- Simple to implement.

ANALYSIS

[Conventional Graphical Data Dispaly omitted]

STATUS

1. Submitted	2/1/99
2. Reviewed by Peer Committee	3/15/99
3. Designated Class 1 Trade Secret	3/17/99
4. Original Submission Split into 2 Parts: Software and Hardware	4/1/99
5. Software Specification Re-submitted	4/15/99
6. Hardware Re-submitted	5/1/99
7. Approved by Peer Committee	6/15/99
8. Claims Drafted	6/30/99
9. Search Agent Locates New Prior Art	7/4/99
10. Claims Re-Drafted	7/10/99
11. Provisional Patent Filed	8/1/99
12. Invention Assignment Completed	8/1/99

Figure 42

Create search agents that will search around the clock and email you the results.

* Required Information

Select Submission Categories

------ Select all ------
Computers, Hardware
Computers, Software
Engineering
Information Technology

For multiple selections, hold down <Ctrl> key

How Often Do You Want to Receive Email Notification?

○ Daily ◉ Weekly ○ Bi-Weekly ○ Monthly ○ None

Submission Status

☐ New ☐ Accepted
☐ Rejected ☐ All

Select the type of submission you would like to search for.

Search Keywords

Describe the specific skills or areas of interest.

Agent Title *

Create a title to help you remember your agent's criteria.

Save Agent | Cancel Agent

Figure 43

Home [Index]

- New Page 3 [Contests]
- MMT [Corporate Corner]
  - MMT Product 2 [Top Innovations]
  - MMT [Industry] Hubs
    - Your Heading Goes Here [Semi Conductor]
    - Software [no sample]
    - Manufacturing [no sample]
  - New Page 2 [Licensing Hubs]
- MMT Submit [Idea Submission]
- MMT Kids Center
  - New Page 1 [Best Kids Ideas]
    - New Page 8 [Bike Riders' Club]
  - New Page 7 [Submit Idea]
    - New Page 6 [Idea Easel - no sample]
- MMT Community Page
  - New Page 4 [Life Sciences]
  - New Page 5 [Social Problems]
- MMT Inventors Page
  - MMT FT Inventors [no sample]
  - MMT Product 3 [Strategic Resources]
  - MMT Service 2 [no sample]
  - MMT Service 3 [no sample]
- MMT News Page
  - Oct. 12, 1999 [No sample]
  - MMT Press Release 2 [no sample]
  - MMT Press Release 3 [no sample]
- Innovation Database Search [db search]
- User Login [register.html]
- MMT Feedback Page [no sample]
- MMT Table of Contents Page [toc - this page]
- MMT Search Page [no sample]

Figure 44

$$$ Contests

Corporate Corner

Submit an Idea

Kids Corner

Community

Inventors Corner

News

Idea Database

Login

Our Mission

Many believe that this is the dawn of the Idea Age, where human creativity in the form of intellectual capital will exceed tangible assets in value. Our principle goal is to inspire and promote new ideas and new innovation, within schools, within corporations, and around the world. Our site helps to foster an environment where creativity is recognized and achievement rewarded.

We are dedicated to promoting creativity, solving problems, and sharing knowledge. We believe in rewarding individuals who create novel innovations. We want to recognize achievements and inspire new thinking and Web-Brainstorming.

Thank you for visiting our site.

Company Profile

Intellectual Property is fueling today's economic growth and prosperity. Within today's companies, innovation fuels high market caps, not tangible assets as in the past. The trends of higher worker mobility and widespread litigation, coupled with the increasing value of digital assets, have converged to create a tremendous opportunity for a new solution.

In today's job market, employees are more mobile than ever before. Mergers, acquisitions, and downsizing are just a few of the reasons. The result is a constantly changing workforce, and the constant creation, disclosure, and turnover of corporate intellectual property. And whereas it is perfectly legal for a highly skilled employee to leave and go to work with a competitor, taking with him or her his own skills and experience, it is not lawful to leave with proprietary company information.

Figure 45

$$$ Contests

- ***Intel Inside***: Submit your most stunning innovation for improving your home computer. Intel's giving $100,000 to the creative person that comes in with the winning idea.
- ***Amazon.com's B2B Luxury Getaway***: Amazon's looking for ideas that will revolutionize the way people buy and sell over the internet. Win a dream vacation of a lifetime, and free books for life.
- ***GE's "We Bring Good Things to Life" Innovation Award***: Submit your best ideas for tomorrow's appliances and enter to win an entire home full of new Profile appliances.

- ***Ford's Futuristic Feature Contest***: Submit your most innovative suggestion for the car of the future and take a stab at winning a fully-loaded Mustang GT.

- ***Nordstrom's Christmas Gift Idea***: Who's got the most original Christmas gift idea? You could win a $5,000 gift certificate.

Figure 46

Corporate Corner
Software for novel business methods is now Patentable!
Best practices for Promoting Innovation:
IBM Leads Copper Chip Revolution
Licensing underutilized technologies
Educational Tools (MMT Seminars and Services)
Reducing litigation risks
Protecting IP:
IT Tools Come of Age
IP Audits
Reducing Employee Turnover
Incentive Ideas
Available Products and Services (MMT IMS)
Why your company needs and CIO (Chief Innovation
Capturing and Measuring the Value of Innovation
The effects of innovation on your bottom line
Portfolio investing: Why you should take risks with
innovation.
What an innovative CEO should be saying
What shareholders expect

Figure 47

Top Innovations

#1 HTML Wizard

Chairman's Award

Garmont, John, 5-25-99, Pittsburgh, PA. Division: Corporate R&D e-mail: j.garmont@corp.research.com

Category: Best New HTML Development Tools

Project: Optimizing HTML Coding

KEY WORDS: software, Symplicity, internet, html, development

DESCRIPTION: This programming model employs a new technique that dramatically reduces the time required to develop and integrate a website with existing corporate SQL databases. It is based on research first developed in 1998 by the corporate R&D team designing advanced system tools to enhance the Symplicity Product Line, Code Named: "Alpha II project." Technical reference materials and specifications can be found at: www.corporate.com\symplicity\dev.alpha2\ for those with appropriate clearance. A provisional patent filing was completed on 2-3-99 under the title "Optimizing HTML Code with Enterprise Databases." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1.

This information is to be held in the strictest of confidence—all materials are classified as Category 1 Trade Secrets.

Refer to Corporate Guidelines for information on company procedures

John Garmont has previously submitted 5 technical innovations—three resulted in patents. He was recently recognized for his outstanding contributions, presented with an **Innovation Award of $10,000**, and admitted to the prestigious **Chairman's Innovation Council**.

Figure 48a

#2 Customer Service Module

Ellison, Carl, 6-9-99, Seattle, WA. Division: Customer Support Services e-mail: c.ellison@corp.service.com

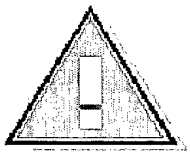
Category: Best Invention-Customer Service

Project: Enterprise Data Sharing

KEY WORDS: customer, service, software, database

DESCRIPTION: This invention is designed to streamline the overall time that it takes customers to receive new product update information. Additionally, it provides for the enterprise connectivity necessary to allow customers to purchase and download new software, upgrades, patches and revisions in real time. The module is highly integrated into our corporate databases, which eliminates the need to access multiple systems to know what configurations exist at customer sites.

For more information, see: www.corporate.com/corp-service/enterprise-data-sharing/. A provisional patent filing was completed on 4-10-99 under the title "Enterprise Data Sharing in Software Support Environments." This patent filing is highly confidential and available only to those with Corporate Legal Clearance A-1.



This information is to be held in the strictest of confidence—all materials are classified as Category 1 Trade Secrets.

Refer to Corporate Guidelines for information on company procedures.

This is Carl Ellison's first invention. To date, we estimate this module to result in significant cost-savings and productivity improvements for the company on the order of $2.5 million per year. For his achievement, Carl and his family will be awarded an all expense paid vacation to Hawaii, and a gift certificate of $1,000.

Figure 48b

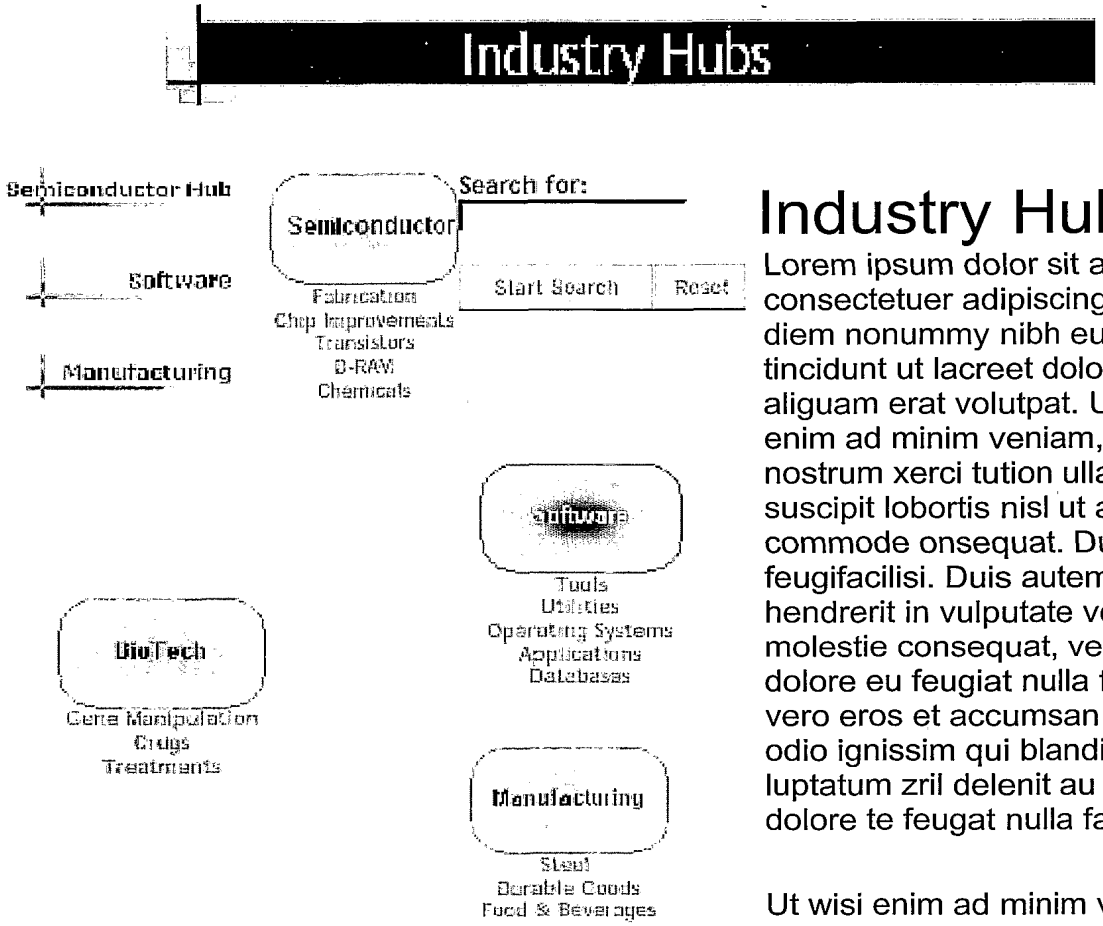
#3

Smith, Charles

KEY WORDS: Semiconductor, Artwork, Fab

DESCRIPTION: This idea is much more clever than the one invented by my partner. He thinks he knows a lot about semiconductors, but he is really just a comedian. Anyway, my idea is so good because I really like it, and other people really like it. I think I am going to get a patent. John G. has submitted 5 innovations on 1-23-96, 11-19-97, 5-28-98, 1-11-99, 6-30-99 and has received $34,750 in awards and compensation.

Figure 48c



Industry Hubs

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diem nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut lacreet dolore magna aliguam erat volutpat. Ut wisis enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrum xerci tution ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commode onsequat. Duis te feugifacilisi. Duis autem dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel llum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio ignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zril delenit au gue duis dolore te feugat nulla facilisi.

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Figure 49

74/91

Your Heading Goes Here

Industry News
Applied Announces Copper Process First!
TI Buys DSP Technology
New SOC's on the way

Search for Innovations

Configure Search Agent

Industry Stats
Total Ideas
Top Innovation

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diem nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut lacreet dolore magna aliguam erat volutpat. Ut wisis enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tution ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis te feugifacilisi. Duis autem dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit au gue duis dolore te feugat nulla facilisi.

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Ut wisis enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tution ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit

Figure 50

- Licensing Connectivity and Revenue
- Available Technologies by Category and Function
- Integrated College Links
- Government Tech Transfer
- Overseas Opportunities
- Search Listings, by Corporation, Inventor, key words
- Unsolicited Idea Pipeline-Direct to
- Automatic Population from MMT System
- Technology Transfer: Universities and Corporations
- Links to Licensing Resources
- Recent Licensing Deals

Figure 51

Submit an Idea

Thank you for submitting a new innovation. Like lightning, we'll post your idea. After the information has been reviewed by our Innovation Committee, you will receive a certificate of registration for your submission by email. You should store this certificate away in a safe place for future use.

All submissions will be eligible for potential financial reward and immediately entered into the categories that you selected. If your idea is picked as a finalist for any of the Innovation Awards, you will be immediately notified by email. Thanks for participating, and remember to view the status of your submissions regularly.

Idea Submission Form

We cannot publish your innovation without this information. We guarantee that this information will not be sold or shown to any other parties other than to Mind Matters personnel for administrative purposes only.

I already have a Patent for this Idea
I have filed a Patent or Provisional Patent for this Idea
Have you ever shown this Idea to anyone before (tradeshow, investors)

Name
Idea
Key Words
Other
E-mail
Phone

Figure 52a

1) Name:

2) Location:

3) E-Mail:

4) Innovation Type

- New Idea
- Process Improvement
- Competitive Tactic
- Patent
- Other (Please specify):

5) Key Words Used to BRIEFLY Describe Innovation

6) Description of Innovation

Thank you for submitting this idea.

Figure 52b

78/91

Best Kid's Stuff

Submit Your Idea

Kids Innovation Center

Hey Kids! Do you have a neat idea that you would like to share. Click on link to get started. You may need your Mom and Dad to help some, but re them that you have a chance to win an all expense paid trip to Walt Disne EPCOT Center!

We'll register your idea for prizes and send you a cool certificate too!

Mattel wants to know your new toy ideas!!!

You can even brainstorm with kids around the world that have the same i as you!

What You Can Find Here

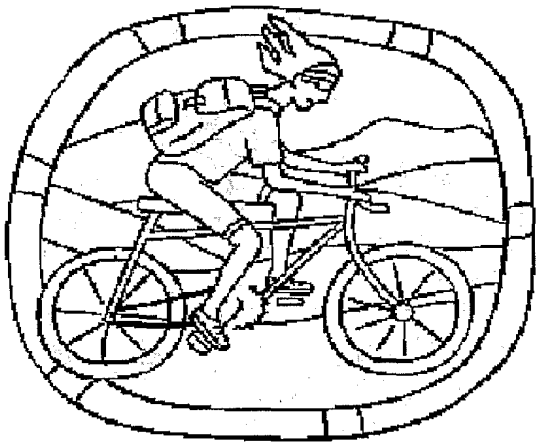
- Exchange ideas with kids around the world
- Learn about cool inventions that kids like you made
- Learn about innovation
- Creativity Games
- How to be an inventor
- Links to Smithsonian, Scientific Journals, etc.

Hit Counter

Figure 53

#1 Bike Genie

Chairman's Award First Place



Sven Carlson, 5-25-99, Oslo, Norway. School: Gummy Bear Elementary

sven.carlson@msn.com

Category: Best New Kid Technology

Project: Helping kids to learn to safely ride a bike

KEY WORDS: bicycle, safety, training, trek, wheel, adapter

DESCRIPTION: This new device connects directly to the rear wheel of any bicycle. The Bike Genie allows kids to learn to ride in half the time that it normally takes. It also comes with a built-in safety indicator that helps keep kids upright and prevents them from getting hurt.

Sven has recently been recognized for his achievements with an all expense paid trip to Disneyland sponsored by Trek. He has also applied for his first patent! Trek has agreed to manufacture Sven's device, which will be available early next year. To learn more about the Bike Genie, click here: www.trek.com/bikegenie.htm

Join our Bike Rider's Club and get instant notification of all bicycle ideas!

Figure 54a

#2 New Sports Cleat

Ellison, Carl, 6-9-99, Redmond, WA. School: Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary e-mail: c.ellison@aol.com

Category: Best Invention-Kids & Sports

KEY WORDS: cleat, shoe, sporting equipment, rubber

Figure 54b

Bike Rider's Club

- Latest Submissions
- Latest Patents
- Bike Company Contributions
- New Bicycle Designs and Components
- Forum
  - Contact the Forum Host: Leslie at leslieelston@msn.com
- Special Deals

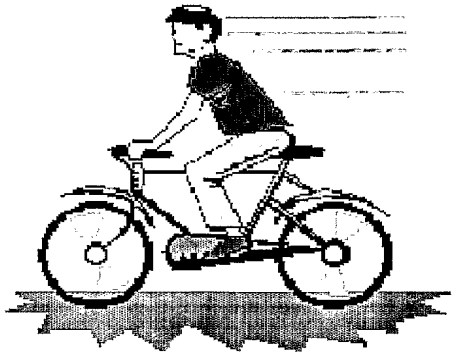


Figure 55

Submit Your Idea

Kids, submit your ideas here!

Click on our easy templat wizard, or better yet, we've got a neat drawing tool. Show us what your invention looks like.

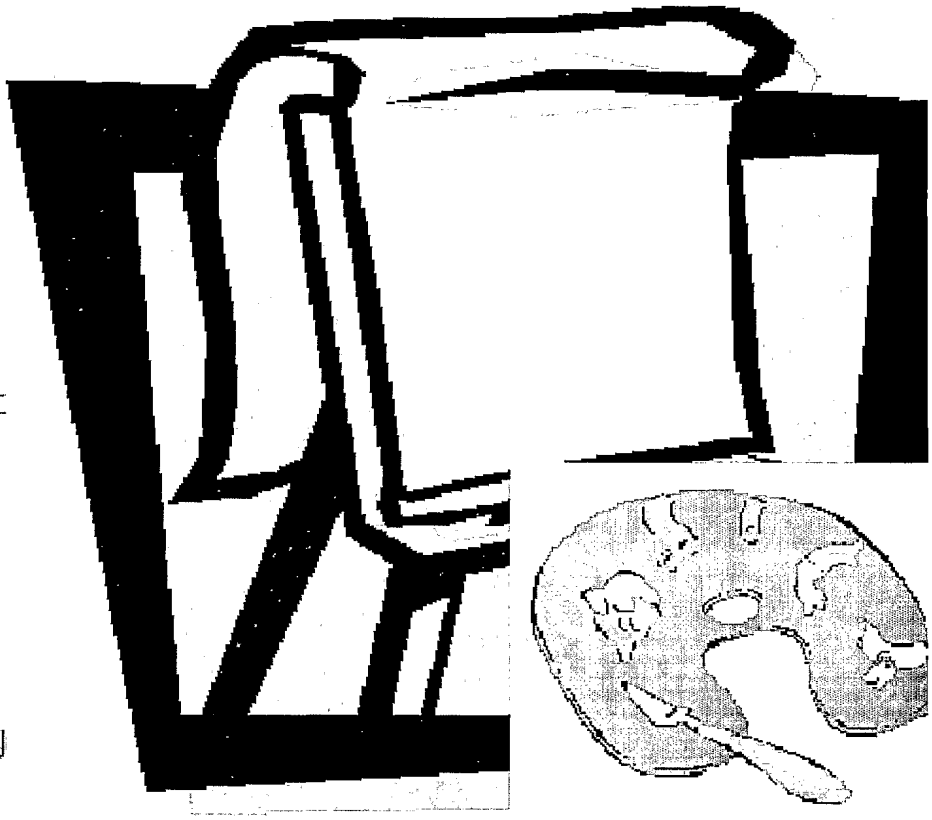
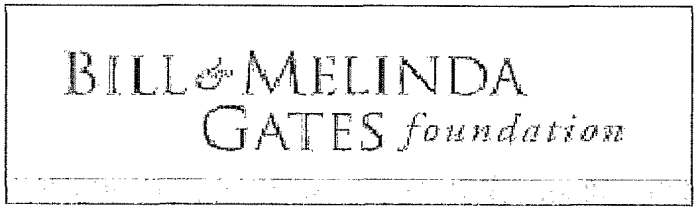


Figure 56

Community

New Ideas and Innovation to improve our communities and lives. We' got sponsors looking for solutions to the world's problems. Your idea n hold the key.

William Gates Charitable Foundation



Bill anc Melind Gates to mak endurir contrib toward increas access innova in education, technology, and global health. More than seventeen billion dollars in endowm have been set aside for these causes.

Top Requested Ideas

Ever wonder who the most innovative companies are? Well, we've ranked them in a whole variety of ways. What industry is the hottes for new patents? Watch in real-time as the innovations increase and show who in the world is the most creative.

Industry Hubs

Looking to find the innovations most relevant to your business. Our industry hubs feature specialized indexing so that you can find ideas quickly. Special interest articles, features, and research provide valuable insights into innovation trends in your industry.

Figure 57

- Disease Prevention
- Cancer
- Childhood Leukemia
- Malnutrition
- Aging
- Gene Therapy

Figure 58

- Traffic Congestion
- Overcrowding
- City Planning
- Government
- Racism
- Poverty
- Environment
- Disease
- Violence
- Drug Use

Figure 59

First Time Inventor

Strategic Resources

Service 2

Service 3

First Time Inventor Resources

Check out information from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office about how to go about patenting your invention.

Do you Know Your Rights as an Inventor?

The idea you're working on may not really belong to you, unless you know your rights. Get information from experts in the Intellectual Property field about what you should be concerned about regarding your inventions. After all, you don't want any surprises.

Think you Have an Idea Worth Millions?

Check out expert advice from lawyers, accountants, and venture capitalists concerning your new business ideas. See if you have what it takes to be successful.

Ever Consider a Career as a Patent Officer?

Description of PTO ...

Partnerships that have been Created at our Website

Read first-hand accounts from people who have submitted their ideas and have successfully brought together the pieces thru joint ventures, new businesses, and professional help.

Business Partner Services

Trying to decide which firms can help with your business plan, financial questions, and legal advice. Look no further than these top-rated partner firms.

Figure 60

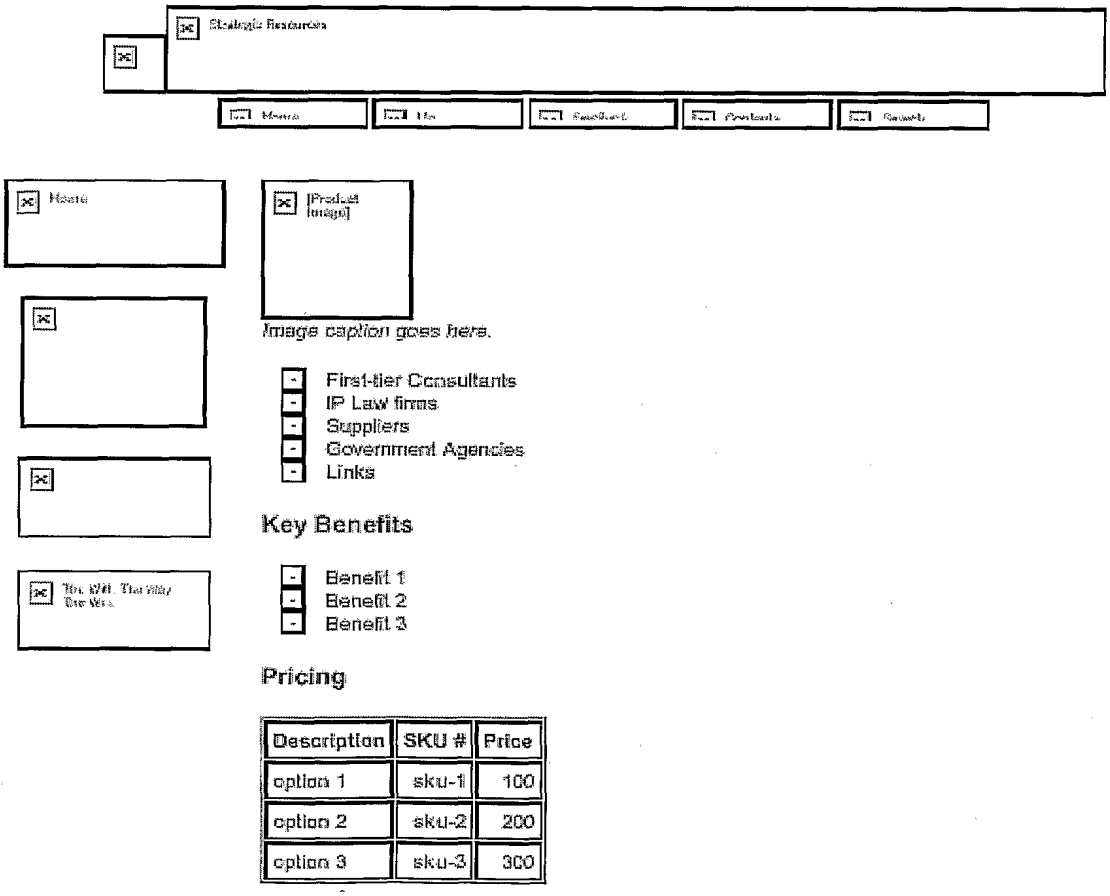

[Product Image]
Image caption goes here.
First-tier Consultants
IP Law firms
Suppliers
Government Agencies
Links
Key Benefits
Benefit 1
Benefit 2
Benefit 3
Pricing
Description | SKU # | Price
option 1 | sku-1 | 100
option 2 | sku-2 | 200
option 3 | sku-3 | 300

Figure 61

Press Release

Press Release 2

Press Release 3

Web Changes

This is where we'll announce the most recent additions to our web site. If visited us before and want to know what's changed, take a look here first.

NEW **Mind Matters Technologies Establishes Internet Presence**
See the press release for more details.

Sample Product Announcement
See the product data sheet for more details.

Press Releases

These are the press releases we've issued over the last year. You may wan search for topics by keyword.

- Date -- Press Release 1
- Date -- Press Release 2
- Date -- Press Release 3

Recent Media Coverage of Mind Matters Techno

- *Title*, Publication, Date
- *Title*, Publication, Date
- *Title*, Publication, Date

Figure 62

Database Search

We have over 500,000 innovations in our database!

Spon

Search By:

Keyword:

Search for:

Start Search | Reset

Figure 63

Mind Matters requires that all innovation submitters register their name, adc and phone number. This information is used solely to create a more reliable important source of information for our users. In many cases, companies wil attempt to contact you concerning your invention. These requests cannot b fulfilled unless we have accurate information on the inventors. By providing accurate and updated data, you ensure that interested third parties can quic contact you. In addition, if you find other inventions that you are interestec same demographic data is sent to the parties you wish to be contacted by...

You can automatically register yourself to be a user of [Name of your sub we filling out and submitting this form. Only registered users are allowed into [N of your sub web]. Choose a username for yourself (such as your last name) a make sure this username contains no spaces. Also create a private password. Together these will be your "key" into [Name of your sub web] from now on. information will be kept in a registration database that is accessible only to webmaster, not to ordinary users.

One of the main benefits of having a protected web like [Name of your sub v that authorized users don't have to keep typing their names into form fields, as when submitting an article to a discussion group, because the web server already knows who they are. Similarly, other users can be reasonably sure th really sent the articles and postings attributed to you, and that someone els didn't pretend to be you when posting.

After you are successfully registered, your web browser will ask you to type username and password the first time you try to access [Name of your sub w The browser will remember this information for as long as it continues to rur you can access any document in [Name of your sub web] without being asked again.

[FrontPage Registration Component]

Form Submission

Figure 64

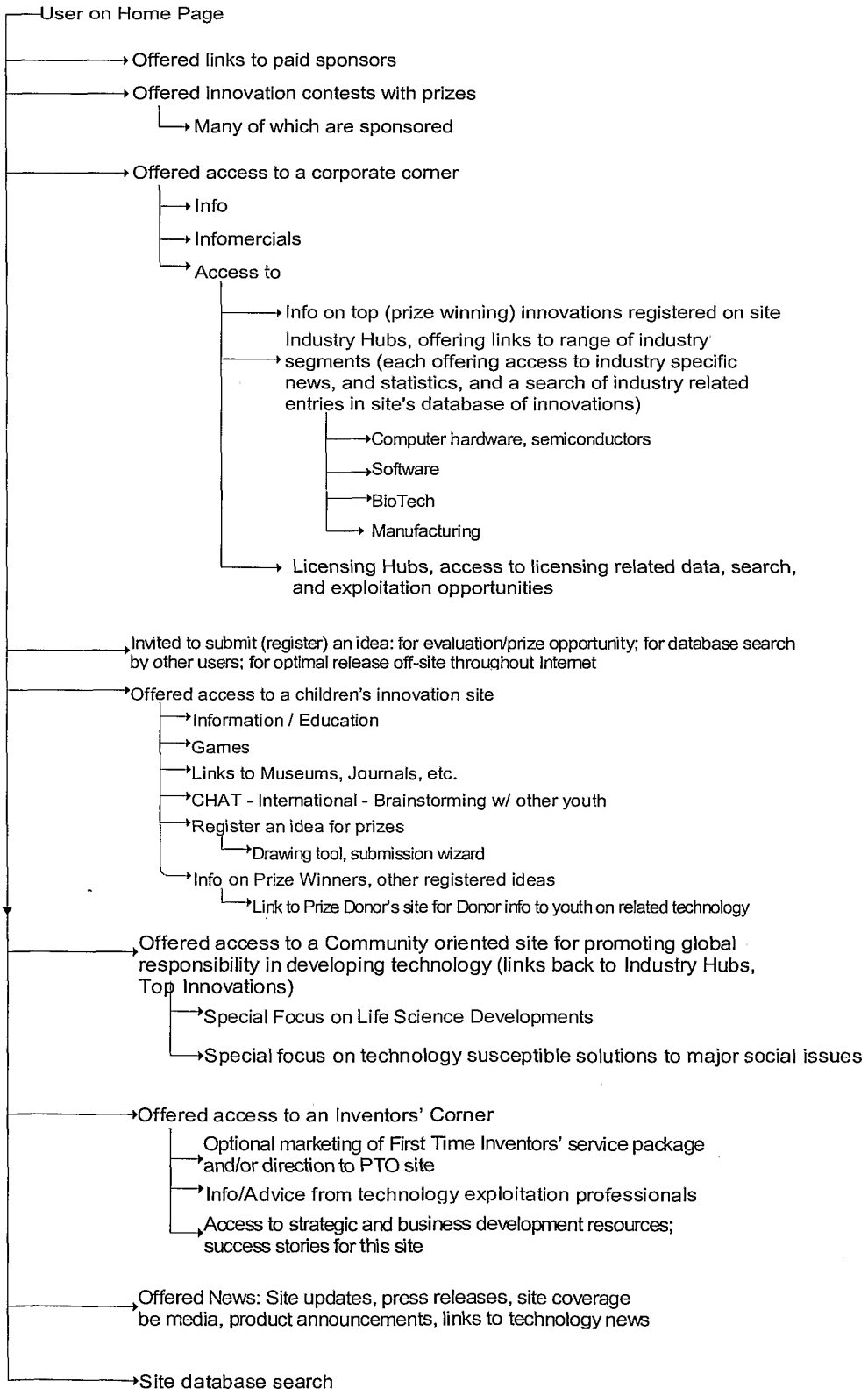

User on Home Page
Offered links to paid sponsors
Offered innovation contests with prizes
Many of which are sponsored
Offered access to a corporate corner
Info
Infomercials
Access to
Info on top (prize winning) innovations registered on site
Industry Hubs, offering links to range of industry segments (each offering access to industry specific news, and statistics, and a search of industry related entries in site's database of innovations)
Computer hardware, semiconductors
Software
BioTech
Manufacturing
Licensing Hubs, access to licensing related data, search, and exploitation opportunities
Invited to submit (register) an idea: for evaluation/prize opportunity; for database search by other users; for optimal release off-site throughout Internet
Offered access to a children's innovation site
Information / Education
Games
Links to Museums, Journals, etc.
CHAT - International - Brainstorming w/ other youth
Register an idea for prizes
Drawing tool, submission wizard
Info on Prize Winners, other registered ideas
Link to Prize Donor's site for Donor info to youth on related technology
Offered access to a Community oriented site for promoting global responsibility in developing technology (links back to Industry Hubs, Top Innovations)
Special Focus on Life Science Developments
Special focus on technology susceptible solutions to major social issues
Offered access to an Inventors' Corner
Optional marketing of First Time Inventors' service package and/or direction to PTO site
Info/Advice from technology exploitation professionals
Access to strategic and business development resources; success stories for this site
Offered News: Site updates, press releases, site coverage be media, product announcements, links to technology news
Site database search

Figure 65

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/30868

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :GO6F 17/30
US CL :707/1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 707/1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 102, 104, 200

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CAS Online, West, East

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,251,294 A [ABELOW] 05 OCTOBER 1993, SEE FIG. 3.	8-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
16 DECEMBER 2000	21 MAR 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer SANJIV SHAH Telephone No. (703) 305-8355

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)★

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/30868

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Please See Extra Sheet.

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
8-18

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING
This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s)1, 3, 5-7, drawn to a system for summarizing company innovations.
Group II, claim(s) 2, drawn to a system for streamlining the process.
Group III, claim(s) 8-18, drawn to a system for web based development and exploitation of IP.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The inventions are independant because Group III comprises a special technical feature of innovator module, developer module, match module and registration modules which is not required by group II and I. Similarly Group II comprises a special technical features of streamlining the process of creating, preserving and protecting proprietary assets which is not required by group I and III.